



Vol. 44. No 2

The Maryland Yellowthroat

May 2024



Janet Millenson (1951-2024)

Evelyn Ralston recalls a MOS champion and a cherished friend on Page 27

In this Issue

President's Corner	Page 3	Thinking Like a Duck: What You Can Do for Urban Mallards	Page 8
Mark Your Calendar!	Page 4	by April Linton, Anne Lewis, and Jocelyn Wulf	
Did You Know???	Page 4	Restoring Maryland's Breeding Seabirds	Page 11
by Maryanne Dolan		by Kim Abplanalp	
YMOS Birdathon 2024 Summary	Page 4	MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger	Page 14
by George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell		By Robin Todd, Ph.D.	
Conservation Corner	Page 5	Chapter Chatter	Page 19
by Robin Todd, Ph.D.		by Jean Wheeler	
Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of April 13, 2024	Page 6	Janet Millenson: A Remembrance	Page 27
by Phil Davis		by Evelyn Ralston	

The Maryland Yellowthroat
Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

Editor: Dave Wood

Yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Calendar Editor: Marilyn Veek

calendar@mdbirds.org

Mailing List: Maryanne Dolan

maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Susan Pardew

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler

jswheeler3@verizon.net

Webmaster: Tom Strikwerda

webmaster@mdbirds.org

Editor's Note

This issue features tributes to two very special MOS stalwarts: Bettye Maki and, of course, Janet Millenson. Bettye is retiring after five years as president of the Talbot County Bird Club, and we hope we can now look forward to learning about more of her exciting adventures (see her Borneo Chapter Chatter account in the February 2024 *Yellowthroat*). Janet Millenson, meanwhile, did practically everything at MOS over the past 34 years, as Evelyn Ralston summarizes on Page 27. Further testimonies by those touched by her recall her intellectual and physical vigor, her zest for life, her good humor, and, as Evelyn says, her "beautiful soul." Such a deep loss.

While on the subject of MOS stalwarts, we also include in this issue:

- An account by Phil Davis of the Maryland/DC Records Committees' latest decisions
- A report by George Ratcliffe and Wayne Bell about the 2024 YMOS birdathon (tallying 136 species and raising \$6,000!)
- More information regarding MOS resources by Maryanne Dolan in *Did You Know???*
- An update on Maryland conservation issues by MOS's Conservation Chair, Robin Todd
- And a reminder by Meg Harris about the MOS annual convention in Ocean City this coming November

This issue also features articles describing two very different examples of environmental action by two authors who have previously graced these pages and who have graciously agreed, at our request, to share their insights with us. Kim Abplanalp is the Bird Habitat Coordinator of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program, whose beautiful photo of a Common Tern family is on the title page of the November 2023 *Yellowthroat*. Here, she describes the remarkable effort being put forth to restore the nesting habitat for Maryland seabirds, notably Common and Royal Terns. She welcomes any knowledgeable and enthusiastic birders who might like to volunteer to help with this program.

Anne Lewis, meanwhile, is the past president of City Wildlife, who described in the February 2024 *Yellowthroat* how homeowners can reduce the incidence of bird/window collisions. This time, along with co-authors April Linton and Jocelyn Wulf, she suggests measures we can take to help urban Mallards that have nested in ill-advised sites to get their broods safely to water. Anne also suggests, if feasible solutions don't happen to come to mind, to call City Wildlife!

Finally, once again, we include many fascinating reports, accompanied by beautiful photos, of recent birding adventures by MOS members. Robin Todd again appears in these pages, this time with a wonderfully rich account of the recent MOS trip to South Africa - just the thing to guide those of us who are hoping to follow in their footsteps. Jean Wheeler's Chapter Chatter, meanwhile, includes, as usual, many exciting accounts, among them forays to New Zealand, Costa Rica, Colombia, India, and Madagascar.

Our members' energy, initiative, and love of nature continue to inspire.

President's Corner, May 2024

MOS counts more than 2,000 members, distributed among 15 Chapters, spread out all the way from Garrett to Worcester Counties. How can members living that far apart get a chance to meet and to develop a sense of community? By attending our yearly convention, of course, which in 2024 will be the 76th one!

My first convention took place at Ocean City, MD, in February of 2018. I was a bit hesitant: hundreds of members that I didn't know, competing to attend a limited number of bird trips? I was mistaken. The number of participants wasn't overwhelming, the bird trips were well organized, and there was a pelagic trip for those who like seabirds... and have a good stomach. To combine water and land (Surf and Turf?), there was another option: some of our best birders were posted with their spotting scopes on the wind-protected deck of a motel strategically positioned along the Ocean City Inlet, ready to help birders of all levels identify all the birds that were floating or flying along the Inlet: loons, gulls, Ruddy Turnstones; it was wonderful!

I often think back about that 2018 Convention, because our 2024 Convention, planned for November 22-24, will, again, take place in Ocean City, although at a more comfortable hotel than in 2018. I hope to see you there. The Convention Committee has been meeting regularly for months already and organizing activities for every moment of every day.

The word Convention may evoke to you a large, darkened, conference room, everyone sitting quietly (dozing perhaps) and taking notes, except for the speaker, of course. Well, there will be keynote speakers at our 2024 Convention, one each night after dinner, and they will not put you to sleep, believe me! You will soon be able to read about them in the [convention website](#). (Please note: the website is still a work under construction; do not be surprised if some of the information refers to the 2023 Convention; it will progressively be completed). The main activity will be birding along the many trails, swamps, beaches, and parks around Ocean City. In case you got tired or did not enjoy the weather, there will be some indoor activities on one of the two days. An in-person presentation by Mark England and Cheryl Hogue (both from the Montgomery County Bird Club) will teach you how to become a good bird trip leader and may change your birding life. The indoor introduction will be followed by a practical session outdoors. In the late afternoon you can join old and new friends around a drink, learn about the professional activities of our sponsors and talk with ornithologists and naturalists who will present posters on their research.

If you are an artist with a competitive streak, there are

three contests that take place around the convention. The **Pin Contest** is an old tradition and will open on May 1st. Each participant will receive a copy of the winning pin in the package that awaits you when you register on Friday morning November 22. Our **T-shirt contest**, in contrast, is brand new and I won't tell you more about it, except that you may wear it non-stop for years afterwards! The **Photo Contest** is not new but is being modified: it is now becoming the **MOS Bird Photo Contest** and you don't need to be at the Convention to participate (or to win). Submissions will open on September 1, no rush. The photos will be evaluated by MOS members, and the winners will be announced at the convention. You will find the **rules** on the convention website. At least some of these activities should captivate your interest!

What about the 2025 convention? Many of us cannot believe that there may not be a convention in 2025. But Meg Harris, Chair of the 2024 convention, is stepping down after chairing five consecutive conventions, including virtual ones during the pandemic. That's a LOT of work; thanks a million, Meg. If we want more conventions we need a new Chair. Please consider to volunteer! Meg will share her experience and tutor you. However we also need a place to meet. It should be accessible from all Maryland counties without several hours stuck in traffic, be rich in birding spots, with a diversity of habitats. It should have hotels or other types of meeting spaces that can house and feed close to 200 participants, comfortably and at a reasonable cost. Please contact me with your suggestions and for now, just dream of Ocean City in November.

Evelyn Ralston

President, MOS

Would you like to receive some of Chan Robbins' Original Records of Christmas Bird Counts?

Chandler S. Robbins (1918-2017) is one of the most iconic ornithologists of the 20th and 21st centuries in the U.S. and in Maryland. Throughout his long and productive life, Chan participated in more than 420 Christmas Counts. His CBC Records from 1934-2017 encompass four boxes of paper that have been stored at the Patuxent Wildlife Center, but now need another permanent home.

Whether you are a CBC or other Count Compiler or simply a birding history buff, could you welcome some of these records of historic interest to your home? A more complete article will be published in the next issue of the [Yellowthroat](#). In the meantime, to get the information you may be interested in, contact Phil Davis (pdavis@ix.netcom.com) or David Bridge

Mark your calendar!

MOS will conduct its 76th annual convention at the **Grand Hotel** in **Ocean City**, Worcester County, Maryland, on **November 22 - 24, 2024** (the weekend before Thanksgiving). Check the convention website (MOS Convention) for the latest information. Field trips and speakers are falling into place. **The Pin Design Contest opens on May 1, 2024, and ends on September 1, 2024.** Check the Pin Design Contest – MOS Convention page in a few weeks for details. We are reviving **convention t-shirts!** We are looking for t-shirt logo designs, so if you are an artist, please submit your design to convention@mdbirds.org with your name and contact information and an attachment of the logo design starting **May 1, 2024 and ending September 1, 2024.**

MOS strives to help everyone enjoy their time at the convention. Here's a comment from the 75th Convention evaluation form: "I felt very welcomed throughout the event. It didn't matter that I was new - everyone is just very nice in general."

We hope to see you at the 76th MOS Convention in November!

DID YOU KNOW?????

In addition to *Maryland Yellowthroat*, MOS communicates with its members through the Mailchimp platform. Mailchimp is a marketing platform that allows MOS to reach its members in a timely manner with time-sensitive information. Alas, these are also the folks who clutter our inboxes with unwanted messages. I can hear you already. "Oh, no, please! Spare me".

Well, we try. All of us receive way too much 'stuff'. We at MOS are well aware of that and try hard to keep our emails short, sweet and infrequent. In 2023 we sent only 39 messages during the entire year; in 2022 it was 34. And they were often clustered around specific events: conservation alerts while the General Assembly or the US Congress was in session; announcements specific to the MOS annual convention; items we deem of general and immediate interest like travel announcements, YMOS fundraisers, Yellowthroat/Birdlife publications, etc. It's a tough balancing act: enough information to keep MOS members informed, but not enough to trigger that dreaded response, "Oh, no. No, no, no. Not another MOS email."

But wait a minute. Maybe you are *not* getting those MOS messages. It's possible. Likely even. MOS emails might be going straight to your spam folder. The big servers (gmail, yahoo, etc.) have policies to determine which messages they will accept and deliver to their user's inboxes in an effort to decrease spam and spoofing. MOS has authenticated our Mailchimp account and adheres to all rules and regulations, but given the large volume of

messages zipping over the internet, mistakes happen. This is why it's important to check your spam folder periodically and mark any MOS messages as 'not spam' so future emails end up in your inbox.

Maybe you are not getting MOS emails because you've 'unsubscribed'. It happens, either by mistake or exasperation at one email too many. No worries. You can come back into the fold. But you will need to affirm that decision yourself. [Click this link](#) to fill out the required info. And then Bam! You're back on our mailing list. (But don't forget to check that spam folder to make sure your server knows of your change of heart.)

What if you only want *some* MOS messages, not all? Now we have a problem. Due to manpower shortages, it's all or nothing. This is MOS, not a major company or political party. We have one person handling our lists, not an army, and very few dollars to spend. If one of our messages hits you at a bad time, hit 'delete' not 'unsubscribe' and particularly not 'spam'. Spam elicits all kinds of fury from the email servers. Spare me their wrath.

So there you have it. Both the good and the bad.

Have a suggestion? Feel the urge to throw a brick? Go ahead. You can reach me at maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Maryanne Dolan

Mailchimp Coordinator

YMOS Birdathon 2024 Summary

At 5 p.m., Sunday, March 19th, the YMOS birders identified their 139th and final species, finding a Bonaparte's Gull off Kent Point. Beginning at 4 a.m., Saturday, the youth birders scoured an area from Ocean City to the Bay Bridge. Thanks to the many who participated, especially the many parents who drove throughout the weekend. We always celebrate the kids, but an event such as this could never occur without the incredible parent involvement.

Three of the 100 Must-See Species managed to hide from the group all weekend: Fox Sparrows, which seemed to have packed and left; Black-crowned Night Herons, missing for the first time from their roost behind the West Ocean City Mall; and Wild Turkeys, which are well documented as significantly declining on the Eastern Shore. Thus, our species score for the weekend on which pledges are based is 136 (139 minus the three missed species).

There are always so many highlights at an intensive event like this. Our only Brown Creeper was found lying on the sidewalk of the West Ocean City Mall, in shock from a



collision with a mall window. Knowing there were youth birders behind the mall, the mall staff asked the students how to deal with the bird. The YMOS students revived the bird and watched it fly off, the only of that species seen the entire weekend.

At 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, the students stood south of Moorhen Pond on Elliott Island Road, listening to four American Bitterns sound off continuously within a small area. At the same time, a Least Bittern and Common Gallinule called nearby. Few will forget that remarkable moment.

Other species of note included a remaining Purple Sandpiper at Ocean City Inlet, a lone Common Goldeneye finally found in the Choptank River Sunday, a Tri-colored Heron and Glossy Ibis in Somerset County, an early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a Rusty Blackbird, a Piping Plover, and an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Most of the group stayed overnight on the Radcliffe property in Dorchester County Saturday night for an early Sunday start. This netted American Woodcock and Cedar Waxwings, which are always challenging to find at this time of year. An amazing number of the students, including most of our elementary contingent, birded right up to Sunday's end.

A special thanks goes out to Jonathan Irons for helping organize many aspects of the event. A member of YMOS for ten years, Jonathan has assisted in an adult capacity in the last two years, and his scouting notes, itinerary, and leadership were critical to our success this weekend.

The Birdathon served another purpose: a large part of the group was together for an entire weekend, a chance to get better connected and begin planning for the World Series of Birding in May. This is our one and only fundraiser for the year, and the YMOS members extend heartfelt thanks to all who contributed and assisted. The final count is not in, but it appears we netted more than \$6,000. The money raised will help pay for supplies for our rapidly growing group and will fund the record six YMOS teams (26 students) competing in the World Series of Birding the second week of May. For those of you who missed out on all the fun, mark your calendars for this time next year for Birdathon 2025.

George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

CONSERVATION CORNER FOR MAY 2024

Bill to Allow TNR program Fails to Pass Howard County Council

On March 4th, Howard County Council member Deb Jung introduced a bill to establish a TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) program for feral ('community') cats in the County. CB-13 would allow the capture, neutering and subsequent release into neighborhoods of feral cats. Proponents of the bill argued that this would be more humane than the current practice of limited capture of these cats, which, if they are not amenable for adoption, can be euthanized. The neutering would mean that these cats could not breed, and their numbers would fall reduced over time as

they aged. Volunteers would put out food for the cats, and limited veterinary care would be provided. The bill can be seen at: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/LegisLegal/>

[County-Legislation/2023-Howard-County-CB13-2022.pdf](#)

Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) strongly opposed CB-13 for three reasons:

-- TNR programs perpetuate colonies of feral cats, which prey upon birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, even if the cats are fed. And while the original neutered cat population may abate, a "vacuum effect" occurs as the carrying capacity of the area increases due to less cats, pulling other feral cats into the community from the surrounding areas.

-- Added to this, some people, aware of the colonies, will drop off additional unwanted cats. These two realities negate the population reduction espoused by the TNR advocates.

-- TNR is a cruel fate for the cats since they would be exposed to the elements, traffic, predators and disease. And, after initial vaccinations, there is no guarantee of continuity of care, such as follows on disease protection. Feral cats can spread disease, such as the insidious *Toxoplasma gondii*.

HCBC's Bob Solem sent out a Newsgram to all members urging them to contact their council members and express their opposition to the bill. Club members Sue Muller and Kurt Schwarz attended the March 18th hearing on the bill and testified eloquently against it. The general tenor of the meeting was, however, favorable to CB-13.

HCBC President Gregg Petersen led efforts to present a kinder and better version of TNR, reasoning that simply objecting to CB-13, without offering an alternative, would not be persuasive. His approach was to work on this problem together with TNR advocates to come up with a better solution for the county's feral cats. The use of 'catios' was suggested. These would be outdoor enclosures to contain the cats where they would be safe, fed, receive regular veterinary care and could not prey upon birds and other wildlife. Gregg provided examples of such 'catios' to the Council. Advocates for feral cats would be responsible for care of these cats, including initial and follow up veterinary care.

With support from the Club's board, Sue Muller recommended, and Gregg offered, \$5,000 as seed money for constructing catios or to support adoptions. The term TNC, for Trap - Neuter - Contain, was coined to describe this enhanced approach. Separately Dr. Murzy Jhabvala offered to donate his entire IRA (approximately \$433,000) to support a 'no-kill solution to Howard County's homeless cats, assuming that the bill passed. The latter, very generous offer could easily make the use of catios a reality.

The bill came to a vote on April 1st. Council members Jung and Youngman voted for it, Walsh voted against it, while Rigby and Jones abstained. So the bill failed to pass. Subsequently, Jung announced that she would not bring the bill back for reconsideration. We need to remember that Council Member Jung has been an environmental champion for county Safe Skies efforts and grassland preservation; maybe she was given an overly optimistic picture of the impacts of TNR programs.

While this vote is a victory for common sense, there is still a lot of work to be done. The situation regarding feral cats in the county needs to be improved. TNR advocates will likely try again. So the use of catios should be pursued.

I was surprised to see that Amazon offers a range of catios: check out:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=catio&hvadid=598923855062&hvdev=c&hvlocphy=9007835&hvnetw=g&hvqmt=e&hvrnd=12457389092869493809&hvtargid=kwd-3780294863&hydadcr=7552_13545640&tag=googhydr-20&ref=pd_sl_3nfwkk96e_e

Another retailer sells plans for DIY catios, see: <https://catiospaces.com/catios-cat-enclosures/diy-plans/oasis-tunnel-8x8-8x10/>

Thanks are due to Gregg, Kurt, Sue, Bob and other HCBC members for rallying so promptly and vigorously to fight the ill-conceived CB-13.

I was going to end this piece with a breezy, optimistic call to other MOS Chapters to use the Howard experience as a template to push for TNC, instead of TNR, programs, assuming that only a few Maryland counties allow TNR. But I was surprised to find out that nearly all, if not all, Maryland counties already allow TNR. Howard is actually an exception, possibly the only one. So, my sign-off message is more muted: urge the modification of existing TNR programs to be TNC. Our goal should be for better lives for feral cats through humane containment, which will also result in an improved environment for our precious native wild birds and other small wildlife.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd, MOS Conservation Chair

Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of April 13, 2024

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package

198. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. No new "state" species were added for MD and DC. The total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC remain 463 and 347, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL:

<https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/>

MD Records Accepted:

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2023-089]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

24-Oct-2023. One bird.

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna* [MD/2023-067]

Pennyfield Lock, Potomac, Montgomery County.

19-Aug-2023 through 11-Sep-2023. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2023-050]

South Point, Berlin, Worcester County.

06-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2023-055]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

20-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2023-071]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

30-Aug-2023. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2023-075]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

12-Sep-2023. One, possibly two, birds.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2023-082]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

13-Sep-2023. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2023-062]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

12-Aug-2023. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina* [MD/2023-061]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

12-Aug-2023. One bird.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*
[MD/2023-063]

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

12-Aug-2023. One bird.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*
[MD/2023-048]

85th Street, Ocean City, Worcester County.

05-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-046]

Poplar Island, Sherwood, Talbot County.

28-Jun-2023 through 22-Sep-2023. One female.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-051]

Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Bladensburg, Prince George's County.

10-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-053]

Potomac River, Poolesville, Montgomery County.

12-Jul-2023 through 09-Oct-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-054]

Masonville Cove, Masonville, Baltimore County.

19-Jul-2023 through 26-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-056]

Piney Run, Skyesville, Carroll County.

21-Jul-2023 through 30-Jul-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-066]

North Beach Marsh, North Beach, Calvert County.

16-Aug-2023 through 17-Aug-2023. Two birds.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-068]

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead), Grasonville, Queen Anne's County.

23-Aug-2023 through 26-Aug-2023. One bird.

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [MD/2023-070]

Hart-Miller Island, Millers Island, Baltimore County.

25-Aug-2023 through 25-Sep-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-090]

Terminus, Cumberland, Allegany County.

29-Oct-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-095]

Elk Neck State Park, Northeast, Cecil County.

08-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-096]

Hallowing Point, Prince Frederick, Calvert County.

08-Nov-2023 through 16-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-101]

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

19-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-104]

Rockburn Branch Park, Elkridge, Howard County.

22-Nov-2023 through 29-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-105]

Susquehanna State Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

23-Nov-2023 through 27-Nov-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-108]

Flying Pig Farm, Federalsburg, Caroline County.

26-Nov-2023 through 15-Dec-2023. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-112]

North Point State Park, Edgemere, Baltimore County.

11-Dec-2023 through 08-Jan-2024. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens*
[MD/2023-114]

Port Tobacco River Park, Port Tobacco, Charles County.

14-Dec-2023 through 21-Dec-2023. One bird.

Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus*
[MD/2023-088]

Mason Cove, Baltimore County.

16-Oct-2023. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* [MD/2007-068]

Hart-Miller Island, Millers Island, Baltimore County.

26-May-2007. One bird.

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea* [MD/2022-042]

Lake at Quarry Place, Reisterstown, Baltimore County.
13-May-2022. One bird.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2022-100]

Keymar, Carroll County.
17-Dec-2022. One bird.

DC Records Accepted:

Roseate Spoonbill, *Platalea ajaja* [DC/2023-045]

Anacostia, NE, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens,
Kenilworth Park.

28-Jun-2023 through 28-Sep-2023. One bird, later
(~7/12/2023), two birds.

Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [DC/2023-116]

Potomac River, NW, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Theodore
Roosevelt Island.

20-Dec-2023. One bird.

Other Committee News

Review List Changes:

The following changes were made to the MD and DC
Review Lists:

Maryland. Due to the number of accepted records and
the ease of identification of these species, the committee
adopted the following:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. The committee voted to
REMOVE Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from the Maryland
Review List.

Roseate Spoonbill. The committee voted to **REMOVE**
Roseate Spoonbill from the Maryland Review List.

DC. To be consistent with the Maryland Review List changes
adopted above:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. The committee voted to
REMOVE Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from the DC Review
List.

Roseate Spoonbill. The committee voted to **REMOVE**
Roseate Spoonbill from the DC Review List.

Annual Meeting

The MD/DCRC Annual Meeting was held in February 2024.
Detailed meeting minutes and the annual business
summary can be found on the committee's web page here

[https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/records-
committee-business-operations/#toggle-id-1](https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/records-committee-business-operations/#toggle-id-1)

Elections and New Members

Members completing their three-year voting terms are
Kevin Bennett, Sam Miller, and Paul Pisano. The committee
thinks them for all their efforts over the past years. The
new members elected for three-year terms were Kevin
Ebert (Washington, DC), Daniel Sloan (Washington, DC),
John Hubbell (Washington, DC). John is a previous
committee member. We welcome them to the next
committee term. Matt Hafner was reelected as Chair. Phil
Davis was reelected as Secretary.

Thinking Like a Duck: What You Can Do for Urban Mallards

by April Linton, Anne Lewis, and Jocelyn Wulf

City Wildlife, Washington, D.C.



Mallard families grace the White House, the Capitol
grounds, and Washington DC's waterways each year, and
many people enjoy their presence and are concerned for
their well-being. City Wildlife's *Duck Watch* program was
created in response to public concern for the many
Mallard hens who nest near busy streets, in enclosed
courtyards, and on balconies and roofs across the city.
Duck Watch volunteers protect and assist nesting ducks
and their ducklings; capture and relocate trapped families;
and work to build an educated, connected community of
duck-friendly humans. This article aims to equip readers
to knowledgeably address the needs of Mallards in their
own urban and suburban communities.

PROTECTING NESTING DUCKS

City Wildlife often learns the whereabouts of urban nests
when concerned individuals contact us. Since Mallards are
a native species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,
we do not entertain requests to interfere with active nests.
Instead, we share general guidelines on how to help keep
the hen and her eggs safe, and we dispatch a volunteer to
assess the situation and provide and/or implement

Thinking Like a Duck: What You Can Do for Urban Mallards

Continued from Page 8

site-specific recommendations. For example, if a nest is on the ground near a curb, hazard tape along the curb will prevent people from accidentally stepping on the nest when exiting their cars. If a nest is on a rooftop or balcony, a temporary barrier can be fashioned, if necessary, to prevent newly hatched ducklings from going over the edge or into areas that volunteers can't access.

Mallard hens lay one egg per day and start to incubate the eggs once the entire clutch has been laid. Ducklings hatch after 24-28 days of incubation, so to estimate a hatch date, try to find out when the hen was first observed sitting on her nest almost constantly (i.e., incubating eggs) and count forward 24 days, maybe dialing your estimate back a few days if your information isn't definitive. Monitor the nest during the incubation period – or ask people who work or live nearby to do so – stepping up the visits as the expected hatching period nears. It's a best practice to keep a log of all observations.

Nests near swimming pools are challenging because the hen will undoubtedly swim her ducklings in the pool. Since young ducklings can only swim for an hour or so before they become waterlogged and risk drowning, the first priorities in this situation – which can be addressed before the ducklings hatch – are to install a ramp if needed and to protect the entrances to the pool's filters with netting or grates. The easiest way to capture ducklings in a pool is to corral them into a small area. We sometime use pool noodles connected into a boom that spans the width of the pool, allowing two people to guide the ducklings to one end where they could be removed from the water.



ESCORTING DUCK FAMILIES

Within 48 hours of her ducklings' hatching, the hen will want to initiate a parade to the water where she will raise them. The water may be over a mile away from the nest

site, and the journey can be treacherous, with hazards including moving vehicles, pedestrian traffic, street grates, gutters, and high curbs. The hen knows where she wants to go, but she might not seem to at first because she's used to flying there. Human escorts can help by blocking dead-end routes and maintaining a clear path in the direction of the water, keeping exclusively to the rear and sides of the ducks once they're on their way. Escorts should be mindful to steer the ducklings away from grates and gutters and to use their hands, a net, or a piece of cardboard to help them scale stairs and curbs. One person may need to precede far in front of the parade to clear a path or (with attention to human safety!) direct vehicle traffic.

Another escort option that can be preferable when there's heavy foot and/or vehicle traffic is to contain the ducklings and move them towards the water with the hen following behind, a technique known as "walking the duck." A birdcage with closely placed bars is an ideal duckling container because the hen can see as well as hear her peeping ducklings. Other options include a pet carrier (with mesh over the front grate to keep the ducklings from getting out), a deep net, or a high-sided cardboard box. It may be helpful to amplify the ducklings' voices by playing a recording of ducklings peeping (available on YouTube).



CAPTURING AND RELOCATING TRAPPED FAMILIES

Nests in enclosed courtyards or on landscaped roofs or terraces more than two stories high pose additional challenges. These spots are attractive to Mallard hens because of their relative safety, yet once the ducklings hatch, they will be either trapped and vulnerable to predators or unlikely to survive the jump to the ground. When *Duck Watch* learns of such situations in advance, we prepare a plan to capture and safely relocate the hen and her ducklings. Considerations include:

- Equipment needed (e.g., nets, a birdcage, carriers, cardboard for corraling ducklings, a vehicle, etc.);
- Barriers to accessing the site (e.g., limited parking, building security protocol);

Thinking Like a Duck: What You Can Do for Urban Mallards

Continued from Page 9

- Availability of an enclosed space where, if the hen enters, she will be easy to catch; and
- The water the hen most likely wants to reach.

It's usually simple to collect ducklings by using a piece of cardboard to herd them into a corner or otherwise limiting their area of mobility, then picking them up with hands or nets and placing them in a container as described above. Mallard hens are reluctant to leave their ducklings but depending on a particular hen's temperament and level of habituation to humans, she may get spooked and fly off. She will usually come back, but if not, we provide additional advice below.

Assuming the hen remains onsite, rescuers can use the contained ducklings to gradually lure her into an indoor space where an open carrier and a net have already been placed. Small spaces such as storage sheds or vestibules are ideal but larger spaces work as well. Prepare larger spaces by closing interior doors and adjusting drapes or shades to limit the amount of visible glass. Since the duck will usually fly towards glass, this narrows the capture area. Someone should be ready to close the door to the space as soon as the duck is inside. Once the hen is confined, it's most efficient to catch her by hand when she flies against the glass; the net is just for backup. Put her into the prepared carrier and then move the hen's and ducklings' carriers close together so they can hear (and possibly see) each other.

If unable to catch the Mallard hen, try to reunite her with her contained ducklings on the ground and then walk her to water. Again, a recording of peeping ducklings is extremely useful.

The processes described above can take anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours. Though potentially time-intensive, they keep Mallard families together and (assuming at least one duckling fledges), negate the instinctual need for a hen to re-nest during the same season. She loses 20 percent or more of her body weight each time she nests.

WHAT IF ALL OF THE ABOVE FAILS?

If a Mallard mom is AWOL, take her ducklings to the water where she's most likely to be, trying multiple water sources if unsure. If she's there she will see her ducklings, hear them peeping, and follow you and your carrier full of precious cargo. If she keeps this up – and especially if she exits the water to come closer – you've found mom and should release her ducklings to her. Success! If you are unable to locate mom, you've still saved a brood of ducklings and should bring them to a wildlife rehabilitator

within 24 hours. The same applies if you randomly encounter motherless ducklings on land. Don't attempt to raise ducklings yourself; it's unwise and illegal.

EDUCATING AND CONNECTING A DUCK-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

When communicating with concerned humans, emphasize that the least intervention possible in a given situation is best, and that our role is to facilitate ducks' natural behavior. We can't prevent all duckling mortality, but we can mitigate some of the man-made obstacles to their survival.

Humans who would never have come to know each other do so around observing a nesting duck or a duck family. Some connections are fleeting yet meaningful; others endure, such as the relationships between neighbors who meet for the first time because of a nesting duck. We urge you to help ducks and connect people.

Please Note:

Waterfowl can carry and transmit Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) without exhibiting symptoms of the disease. For this reason, the CDC recommends that people who handle waterfowl wear gloves, at a minimum, and ideally a mask and safety glasses. Clothes that have touched waterfowl or their feces should be cleaned immediately and equipment should be disinfected after use.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Baldassarre, Guy. 2014. Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America, Volume 1. "Mallard" (pp. 369-420).

City Wildlife. 2021. Understanding Urban Waterfowl (video). Accessed April 2024. Available from <<https://citywildlife.org/programs/duck-watch/>>

City Wildlife. 2017. Duck Watch Fact Sheets. Accessed April 2024. Available from <<http://citywildlife.org/programs/duck-watch/>>

Ducks Unlimited. 2017. The Amazing Egg: An Inside Look at Egg Formation, Structure, and Brood Development in Waterfowl. Accessed April 2024. Available from <<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/understanding-waterfowl-the-amazing-egg>>

Ducks Unlimited. 2017. The Amazing Egg: The Incubation Period. Accessed April 2024. Available from <<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/the-incubation-period>>

Thinking Like a Duck: What You Can Do for Urban Mallards

Continued from Page 8

Ducks Unlimited. 2017. Understanding Waterfowl: Brood Ecology. Accessed April 2024. Available from

<<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/understanding-waterfowl-brood-ecology>>

Ducks Unlimited. 2017. Understanding Waterfowl: The Nesting Period. Accessed April 2024. Available from

<<http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/understanding-waterfowl-the-nesting-period>>

Ducks Unlimited. 2006. If at First You Don't Succeed. Accessed April 2024. Available from

<<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/if-at-first-you-dont-succeed>>

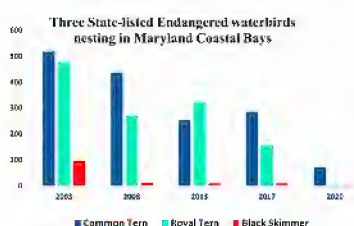
Restoring Maryland's Breeding Seabirds

by Kim Abplanalp, Bird Habitat Coordinator'

Maryland Coastal Bays Program

All Photos by Kim Abplanalp

Build an Island....Terns Will Come! This motto has been the driving force behind the project to build an artificial island for the State-listed endangered species, the Common Tern. In the Maryland Coastal Bays, waterbirds have been in decline for the last forty years, causing three iconic species to now be State-Listed Endangered: the Black Skimmer, Royal Tern, and Common Tern. The Common Tern for example, went from over 1,000 nesting pairs forty years ago, down to 500 pairs twenty years ago and by 2020, that number had dwindled to just 35 pairs.



Common Tern ~520 pairs in 2003 ~35 pairs in 2020

Royal Tern ~500 pairs in 2003 0 pairs in 2020

Black Skimmer ~100 pairs in 2003 0 pairs in 2020



The reason is the loss of nesting habitat due to sea level rise, the erosion of sand islands, the sinking of the Delmarva Peninsula, severity and frequency of storms, human impact, and predation. In addition, the stabilization of the Ocean City Inlet in 1933 broke the cycle

of breaching replenishment to the islands in the coastal bays. The islands no longer replenish themselves.

In 2021, three organizations, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources spearheaded by waterbird ecologist Dave Brinker, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and the Maryland Coastal Bays Program embarked on a joint project to build a floating island and place it in the middle of the MD side of Chincoteague Bay to create habitat for Common Terns.

The island is made up of 18 individual sections, wooden platforms 8'x16' each built on wheeled dock floats that become amphibian, roll down a boat ramp, then float in the water. Two of them get joined together becoming 16'x16', a substrate of crushed clam shell is placed on top then towed out to our permitted spot in the middle of the bay. Nine more pairs are towed and joined together by custom made interlocking hinges that have the mobility to move vertically during strong winds and storm events and stay intact, then become one large floating island secured in four directions with plow anchors. The raft withstood two large storms with wind gusts up to 60 mph.

Once the island is completely latched together, carpet covers the joined pieces so chicks can't fall through the cracks or off the raft, a sound lure with the Common Tern calls and decoys are placed for social attraction, and artificial plants are placed throughout the raft to mimic a natural island. Wooden chick shelters are added as well to protect the chicks from heat exposure and potential avian predators. Two solar panels charge 3 car batteries that operate four remote cameras, a WiFi hotspot, the vocal lure and four navigational lights at night. Later, a ramp is installed with a platform for when chicks begin practice flying and may land in the water. While they have strong enough muscles to launch off the raft to practice flight, they may not have the muscle development to lift off the water- so they paddle over to the ramp and simply walk back up to the raft.

Each week the raft is monitored and visited to record nest contents and band both adults and chicks. This gives us the science to understand the health of the colony over time. For example, in the last three years, 79% of the adults we've banded have returned to the raft. Chicks do not migrate back from South America until they are of the breeding age of three, which means this 4th year of the tern raft could potentially get our first returning chicks. Though dispersal of chicks acts differently than adult birds who are accustomed to the raft and its location, it will be interesting to see how many chicks return to this specific site over the next few years. That will give us a better understanding of the success and health of birds born to this island. Both adults and chicks are banded with USGS metal bands and also FR (3 digit Field Readable) bands. It would help us tremendously if birders in Maryland would report and ideally photograph any of our birds you may see.

Restoring Maryland's Breeding Seabirds

continued from page 11

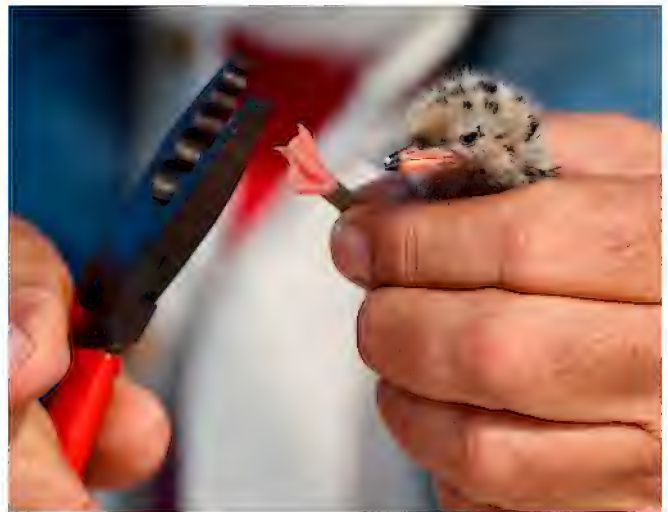


The Completed Raft



This raft photo is from 2023 showing the raft with the two solar panels, the waterproof box that stores the car batteries, WiFi hotspot, control panels to run four cameras (in photo,) and 4 running lights. On top of the pole are two antennas.

In 2021, the first year of the project, the raft was placed out in the bay in May, a month later than planned, due to permitting issues. Nonetheless, it produced 23 nests that fledged 22 chicks. In 2022, the raft was launched in April and the number climbed to 155 nests, fledging 148 chicks. In 2023, that number more than doubled to 322 nests! The number of chicks fledged, however, totaled 170, lower than normal, due to a week-long storm just as the first eggs were hatching. This led, despite an enormous effort by the adults to find food and protect the chicks, to being unmanageable under the severe circumstances. Some chicks lived, but many died, due to exposure and starvation. The good news is, though, that in three years, we've restored over half of the nesting population from twenty years ago and fledged 341 Common Tern chicks. We're excited to see what this year will bring; the tern raft was recently launched for its fourth year on April 9th. After the season, the island is towed back to shore and stored on a property graciously offered to us by a neighbor at South Point and stored for the winter.



Banding a newly-hatched Common Tern chick

Sea level rise has been going on for centuries. There are many complex factors contributing to the problem of the modern era of human-caused sea level rise, from global warming that causes glaciers to melt, sea waters to expand, ocean and wind current changes to land subsidence (the removal of natural resources underground,) and more. The last 100 years the global sea level rise has averaged 6.7" inches, however for the United States the number is 11" inches. Relative sea level rise is worse along the entire Atlantic Coast and especially in the Delmarva peninsula because of sinking land masses. To put it in perspective: Each year, the relative observed sea level rise is 3.7 mm here in Delmarva compared to 1.7 mm in New England. Our region is simply one of the most vulnerable in the United States.

Recently, the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and the Department of Natural Resources have placed crushed

Restoring Maryland's Breeding Seabirds

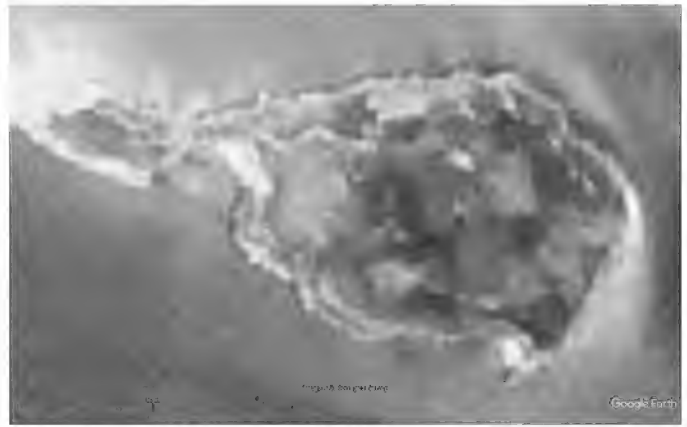
continued from page 12

clam shell on another island off 54th Street in Ocean City, a place where historically Royal Terns, Common Terns and Black Skimmers have nested, which is named Reedy Island. It is also the largest and only nesting island for Laughing Gulls in Maryland. Though Black Skimmers and Common Terns have been missing the last 4-5 years, the Royal Terns have stayed, but have migrated into the Laughing Gull colony because the former sandy beach has eroded away as well. Where they are is called an ecological trap because, unlike the Laughing Gulls which nest on the island's wrack and vegetation, the terns lay an egg on the mud with little chance of success. The island is prone to higher-than-average tide events, and storm events as well. The same storm that challenged the tern raft flooded Reedy Island, and the Royal Tern eggs (380 total,) were destroyed.

Below are two photos from Google Earth that show the erosion of Reedy Island in the last thirty years. Their imaging has improved, but to help you understand the older image in black and white, all of it was vegetated vs. the recent image in 2023 where you can see the pooling and tremendous loss of habitat. The new beach is on top of the existing beach on the left of the main island, one foot above mean high tide so that the eggs of Royal Terns could possibly survive flood events. Now we just have to get them to move. We've placed a vocal lure as well as decoys there too. Considered stubborn birds, hopefully they will gravitate towards their new home. Reedy Island is currently in the permitting stages of a larger scale, multifaceted island restoration project of Maryland Coastal Bays Program that could save and restore the island for years to come.

It is just one of the islands that need restoration to save waterbirds and retain the biodiversity we need in the coastal bays. As you understand, birds are part of the whole system along with fisheries, plants, and other interconnected species. They all go together. The tern raft island is a positive stop-gap measure to sustain a species while restoration projects are being planned and implemented. What we need is the willingness of everyone to get on board. We need the will of the birding population, the general population, the governor and our representatives, and the funding support to restore our nesting islands. Our lives, our communities, our entire ecosystem, are, in part, dependent, and improved upon, with birds.

If you're interested in helping with our Tern Raft project, we use a swath of volunteers each week that we train to help out. Please reach out to me; we welcome people who understand the importance of birds.



Reedy Island, 1999/2000. The varied tones are all vegetation



Reedy Island, 2023



The new beach on Reedy Island, consisting of 75 cubic yards of crushed clam shell, placed on what was left of the existing beach (which was basically gone.) Between the shell and the marsh are coir logs (from coconut,) just to support the beach staying put and not moving into the marsh. On top of the shell are decoys in colony as well as recently-added artificial plants and a sound lure playing the calls of Royal Terns.

MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger

By Robin Todd, Ph.D.

In October 2023, seven MOS members (leader Maryanne Dolan, Gwen Stanhope, Dan Habig, Michele Melia, Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Hyacinth Todd and I) embarked on a birding trip to South Africa, travelling from Cape Town to the Kruger National Park. Maryanne, Gwen and Dan had already spent two weeks in birding through Tanzania, before arriving in Cape Town. We were to stay for several days at Howards End B&B; a comfortable and tranquil place in the relatively safe neighborhood of Pine Lands. Birding Africa was the company that organized and led the trip; they did a great job.



The MOS group with guides David and Andrew

Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa)

Although we arrived a day early to rest before the trip began, we succumbed to the lure of

Table Mountain by taking a Hop-On-Hop-Off double decker bus tour of the city and then a cable car ride up to the top of the Mountain. From here, we were rewarded with incredible views in all directions and a cold, bracing wind. Earlier we had our first Cape Robin-chat, which was to be one of the most ubiquitous species on the trip.

That night we dined with our guide, David Swanepoel, who briefed us on the upcoming trip. The next day we birded the Kirstenbosch Gardens, on the flanks of Table Mountain. David showed us a very obliging Spotted Eagle-Owl peering out of the raised flower box in which it was nesting (a fluffy owlet was visible also). A Sombre Greenbul lived up to its reputation as a skulker, affording only brief views. A Cape Spurfowl indulged in a vigorous dust bath just a few feet from us. A Cape Sugarbird posed elegantly atop a bush as did colorful Southern Double-collared Sunbirds.



Cape Sugarbird Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

Following a hearty lunch (the food in South Africa was uniformly good: hearty and plentiful) at the Gardens' café, we drove south to Strandfontein Sewage Works. Here David trundled us around the impoundments looking for waterfowl and shorebirds (David correctly referred to the latter as 'waders'). We saw Egyptian Goose (an 'every day' bird), Cape Shoveler, Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Teal, Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Blacksmith Lapwing, Little and Eared grebe, Red-knobbed Coot, Common Coot and Eurasian Whimbrel. We also saw Grey-headed, Hartlaub's, and Kelp gulls, with Hartlaub's being by far the commonest gull. Hadada Ibis were ubiquitous and became another 'every day' bird on the trip. The Purple Heron was the only one for the trip.

The next day we drove east, out of Cape Town's gritty suburbs and through rocky, low vegetated hills. We turned off the highway at Hermanus and drove up onto Fern Kloof Nature Reserve, over heathy fynbos-covered hills (fynbos is one of the most distinctive vegetation types of the Cape). We were rewarded with good views of a Cape Rockjumper, a target species. Onward and, after a fine lunch in the small town of Napier, we left the rich farmland and ascended into more fynbos clad hills. The gravel road led us into the De Hoop Nature Reserve (pronounced 'De Wup' in Afrikaans, David's preferred language). The Cape area of the country contains one of the world's five major floristic zones, only in a much smaller area than any of the others. Indeed, we saw many strange new plants here.

Notable new birds were a resident group of Ostriches, that roamed around De Hoop village where we stayed, Helmeted Guineafowl, Cape Spurfowl, Spur-winged Goose, a distant Hamerkop, Great-crested Grebe, Spotted Thick-knee, Crowned Lapwing, African Darter, Southern Fiscal (a smartly attired shrike) and Pin-tailed Whydahs (breeding males are cartoon-like birds with dumpy little bodies and tails twice their body length). Other notable birds included Speckled and Red-face Mousebirds (awkward and long tailed) and a gorgeous African Hoopoe.

MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger

Continued from Page 14



Cape Rockjumper Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

Bokmakierie are yet another African shrike; this one reminiscent of a Meadowlark. True larks were well represented; with Agulhas Long-tailed, Karoo, Cape Clapper (with an odd display flight), Large-billed and Red-capped all being recorded.



Pin-tailed Whydah Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

De Hoop is home to a herd of Bontebok, a species of antelope that was hunted nearly to extinction (down to just 39 individuals) before being protected; it now numbers in the few thousands. It has a smart white and dark brown uniform and only occurs in the Western Cape, with the largest herd at De Hoop. The reserve also was home to a herd of majestic Eland.

We saw our only Cape Vulture (Cape Griffon), now a rare bird in South Africa, at Potberg. We were glad of David's incredible ability to identify birds that were only distant specks.

We got as far east along the coast as Koppie Alleen beach, where the cold gray waters of the Indian Ocean forestalled any inclination to swim or even paddle. African Oystercatchers huddled on the rocks, and Southern Right Whales lolled in the waves a short way out. The area is a regular calving site for these endangered giants.

After two days at De Hoop, we headed back to Cape Town, but had to take a series of detours owing to road closings. We made several birding stops on the way, over wild, rocky mountains from which we descended abruptly to large fruit orchards with neat lines of low trees.

The following day we headed north, up the coast to West Coast National Park. Our first stop was at Tienie Versveld, a wildflower reserve. Here we saw Spur-winged Goose, Cape Teal, Large-billed Lark, Levallant's and Cloud cisticolas, Barn Swallow (with white breasts unlike those in North America), and Greater-striped Swallow. Then it was on to Geelbeck, which borders extensive mud flats and adjoining marshes. A long, screened boardwalk led to a blind, from which we spied Curlew Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover) and many Little Stints. After a hearty lunch at a friendly open-air café on the edge of the marsh, it was on to Seeberg. Here we ascended to a huge rock atop a hill, from where there was a panoramic view of the coastal flats stretching into the distance. A Rock Kestrel afforded good views from its rocky perch. Then it was down to another blind, at the end of another long carefully-screened boardwalk, from where we saw Three-ringed, Kittlitz's and White-fronted plovers, and Greater and Lesser Flamingoes.

The next day, we drove south, along the coast to Simonstown to the colony of African Penguins. Only a few colonies of this endemic penguin remain; the species has suffered steep population declines since the turn of the century. The Simonstown colony is quite a tourist attraction, with queues to enter via the visitor center gate. The bird mostly lolled on the sand or rocks, mere feet away from the boardwalks upon which we stood. Many were molting; for about three weeks they cannot go to sea and must fast. We continued south along the spectacular coast, eventually reaching Cape of Good Hope, where we enjoyed a very promptly-served lunch. The wind is a factor to be reckoned with on the Cape; the east winds are often fierce, and houses are sited accordingly. We peered at wind-tossed gulls (mostly Hartlaub's) and terns (Great Crested, Sandwich, and Common). David even spotted a distant Arctic Skua. The next day we flew northeast to Johannesburg. We then drove east, out of the flat, gritty suburbs and into wide open, gently rolling farmland. We had our first sighting of Long-tailed Widowbirds; the breeding males trailing their incredibly long tail feathers. After passing the dark spoil heaps of distant coal mines, which provided a somber back drop, we turned off the main road and onto side roads which climbed to Dullstroom. At 6,900 feet, this is one of the highest towns

MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger

Continued from Page 15



African Penguins Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa)

in the country; it was noticeably colder and damper here. The area is noted for its lake-based fly fishing.

There was still time for birding after we had dropped our bags at Rose Cottage, so we checked a nearby reservoir. Here we were rewarded with our first Pied Kingfisher, more widowbirds and, like an old friend, a male Mallard.

The next day, after a generous breakfast, we drove northeast. We picked up our second kingfisher (a Brown-hooded sitting on some wires) before ascending to high, open farmlands and moorlands. We stopped at several places, picking up Eastern Long-billed and Red-capped larks, smart-looking African Stonechats and Buff-streaked Chats, plus Ashy and African Dusky flycatchers.

We then descended to the lower elevations and warmer temperatures of the Mt. Sheba area. We stayed two nights at Mt. Sheba Lodge, which lies in a private reserve, complete with a guard house at the entrance. The approach road winds down through thick Afro-montane forest to the immaculately-kept grounds and scattered thatched buildings. Steep hills, clothed in forest and meadows surround the Lodge, and Mt. Sheba itself is visible in the distance. We were welcomed in the lobby with a choice of fruit punch or sherry. Our rooms had working fireplaces, which we were encouraged to use, firewood being on hand. After a welcome lunch at one of the lodge's two restaurants, we birded slowly around the grounds. An Olive Bush-shrike sang obligingly from exposed perches, belying its reputation as a skulker. Following a rough road into the forest, we had agonizingly brief glimpses of a Narina Trogon and Knysna Turaco; the latter was surprisingly hard to spot for such a large bird. But a Gray Cuckoo-shrike obligingly provided good views.



Narina Trogon Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

The next day we rose early to bird around the grounds. We spotted Sombre Greenbul, and an African Goshawk flew high overhead. After breakfast and a brief rest, we birded the same forest road and were rewarded with much clearer views of the Trogon. David led us up the road out of the reserve for afternoon birding. All was quiet and still until, suddenly, four turacos swooped into a tree right above our heads. We gazed in rapture as these gaudy, bizarre birds slipped quietly through the canopy. Later a beautiful White-starred Robin was spotted deep in the shrub layer.

The following day, we again set off, driving northeast, over red rocky mountains before quickly losing altitude. It became suddenly much warmer. We reached Kruger National Park at noon. David had predicted that Kruger would be the crown jewel of the trip and he was right. At the entrance to the park we were greeted by Andrew Wagner, a Kruger specialist guide, and a font of information with a wicked sense of humor. We boarded Andrew's open-sided safari wagon. The three rows of passenger seats were raised bleacher style so that visibility was equally good wherever one sat. We proceeded to the official entrance, presented our passports, scarfed down hot Cornish pasties, and set out for a leisurely 50 km drive to Satara Camp. We soon added to our list of raptors—White-back Vulture, Bateleur, Wahlberg's and

MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger

Continued from Page 16

Tawny Eagles, and Brown Snake-Eagle. A Martial Eagle had captured a Monitor Lizard and flew to a dead tree to eat it. A male Leopard, with a gaping wound on his right hind leg, climbed a low tree when faced with 5 Hyenas, which would have been more than its match. Kruger is vast; a seemingly endless expanse of savanna with varying densities of low trees stretched away to the far horizon in all directions.

We spent the first two nights at the Satara Camp; essentially a group of cottages, stores, restaurants, and sundry other buildings encircled by a protective fence. We stayed in one room, circular 'cottages' with thatched roofs. Park rules firmly require that one get to the camp by 6.00 pm, before the gates are locked. Andrew impressed upon us the penalties for late arrivals. A tiny African Scops Owl peered out from a low tree inside the camp.

We were up by 5.00 the following morning for coffee, tea and bikkies for dunking. Then we set off across the low veldt. Evidence of selective burnings were the dramatically greener grass sections as compared to adjacent brown and yellow of the unburnt sections. Huge Kori Bustards strode about, displaying with puffed out breasts. Red-crested Korhaan and Black-bellied Bustard were also seen. We stopped at a bridge over the Oliphant river. Rivers in Kruger are often wide, multi-channeled with many islands. Here a very tame Giant Kingfisher sat on the handrail, almost within touching distance. A Sanderling was perhaps the most unusual bird of the day. Also seen were Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank and Three-banded Plover. Andrew remarked he could call crocodiles and, after we had poo-pooed this as wishful thinking, proceeded to yowl startlingly, at which the previously inert crocs turned their heads and waddled towards him. After a hefty lunch at Camp Oliphant, we made our way back to Camp. We glimpsed a distant pair of Secretarybirds, the only ones for the trip. A Verreaux's Eagle Owl lurked in a small tree – surprisingly well hidden. Tiny Black Crakes foraged at the reedy edges of pools.

Following dinner, we went on a night ride in an open bus with other guests. Spotlights scanned the bush on either side as we slowly bumped along. The emphasis was firmly on large mammals (notably Casper, the famous leucistic lion and groups of elephants). A White-faced Owl was flushed overhead and gave a good view. Frogs called continually in several areas, sounding like spring peepers, but tentatively identified as Painted Reed Frogs, an invasive to the region, but not to South Africa.

The following day, we left Satara and headed to Tshokwane. This was the only day when it was uncomfortably hot. New birds included two Gabar Goshawks that dashed by, African Woolly-necked Stork,



Giant Kingfisher Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

Red-billed Oxpeckers on African Buffalo, Black Cuckoo, White-crested Helmetshrike, Knob-billed Duck, African Jacana, Yellow-bellied and Burnt-necked Eremomelas, and White-winged Widowbird.

We enjoyed a huge brunch under the spreading branches of a huge tree – incorporated into the restaurant at Tshokwane. A Pearl Spotted Owlet in a low tree attracted lots of small mobbing birds. We picked up Green Woodhoopoe and Common Scimitarbill, both very handsome birds.



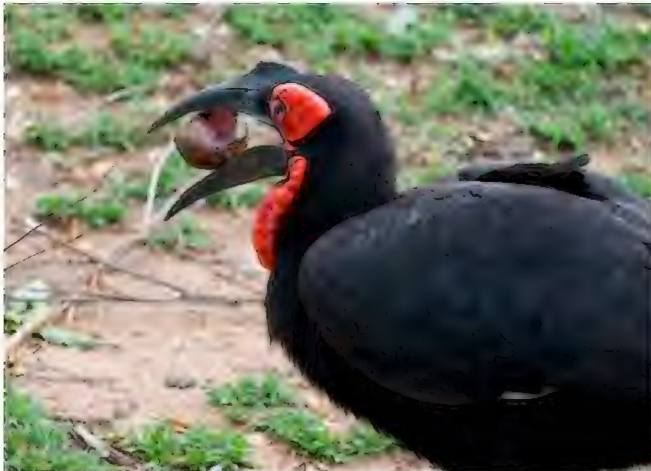
Green Wood Hoopoe Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa

MOS South Africa Trip: From Cape Town to Kruger

Continued from Page 17

Thence to Skukuza Camp in the extreme south of Kruger, where we would spend our final two nights. After checking in and dropping our bags, we went out for some late afternoon birding. The nearby hide was already fully occupied, so we pivoted to a nearby golf course, which included a lake. A Broad-billed Roller perched in a distant tree, and a Lesser Reed Warbler sang busily from a clump of reed, near its nest. On several occasions, Large Copper Dung Beetles crashed into the wagon, presumably looking for elephant or buffalo droppings.

The next morning some of the group spotted Honey Badgers padding by their huts. We set off for the Sabie River. African Black Duck, African Green Pigeon and African Finfoot (the last an incredible long distant spot by Maryanne) were all new birds. We had lunch at a large, posh restaurant overlooking the Sabie River. In the afternoon, a group of stately Southern Ground Hornbills walked unhurriedly right past us, marvelous birds! We were thrilled by a group of Trumpeter Hornbills alighting in nearby trees. A pair of Collared Pratincoles posed elegantly on one of the riverine islands.



Southern Ground Hornbill Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa)

The next day was our final one. We were rewarded with close views of a group of Crowned Hornbills, we had now seen all 6 species (the others being Southern Yellow-billed, Southern Red-billed and African Grey). We checked out of Skukuza and visited the hide, which was now almost empty. We had superb closeup views of African Darter, a fishing Squacco Heron, a family of Water Thick-knees, and a colony of Village Weavers and their dangling woven nests.

Following a leisurely breakfast at the golf club, we said fond farewells to Andrew and climbed into the van for the long drive back to Johannesburg. David was still calling out

'road birds' as we blasted down the highway. He got us to the airport by 5pm, allowing ample time to catch our flights. After quick farewells, we all went our separate ways, but with many warm and colorful memories of a great trip.

Some General Observations:

The Cisticolas are a group of small brown insectivores that rival North America's sparrows in terms of identification challenges. Our group logged nine of the possible 13 species.

In contrast to Maryland, insectivores were plentiful. Swifts and swallows were dashing about above us wherever we went. We saw Alpine, African Black, Little (the commonest) and White-rumped Swifts. Swallows were also numerous; we saw Black Saw-wing, Brown-throated Martin, Barn Swallow (but these had white, not rusty breasts), White-throated Swallow, Wire-tailed Swallow, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Large Rock Martin, Greater and Lesser-striped Swallows, Red-breasted Swallows and South African Cliff Swallow.

Two groups of birds which reminded me of UK were the pipits and wagtails, and the chats and wheatears. Of the former we saw Cape Wagtails in many places, but the brighter African Pied Wagtails only in Kruger, as well as African and Nicholson's pipits and Cape and Yellow-throated Longclaws (honorary pipits). Of the latter, we saw Familiar Chat, African Stonechat, Buff-streaked Chat, Mocking Cliff-chat, Southern Ant-eating Chat and Capped Wheatear.

We were all struck by how friendly and courteous the people were wherever we went; even the guy who offered to help us use an ATM was pleasant.

The total number of species seen (almost all) or heard by the group was 341 (although none of us saw or heard every species).

I used the Sasol 'The Larger Illustrated Guide to Birds of Southern Africa' (published by Struik Nature) about which my only complaint was that species were not arranged by their Latin family names.

Dan was the eBird recorder and has assembled an eBird report which is available at:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/173468>.

Robin Todd



THANK YOU BETTYE MAKI

**PRESIDENT TALBOT COUNTY BIRD CLUB, 2019 to
2024**



Bettye Maki at Eastern Neck NWR
Photo by Dave Burgevin

Bettye Maki served as president of the Talbot County Bird Club (TCBC) 2019 to April, 2024. Bettye is a passionate supporter of sanctuaries owned by Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). She led the effort to develop a parking area at Marengo Road Sanctuary and is now spearheading the development of its trails. Annually, Bettye led TCBC efforts to maintain another Talbot County Sanctuary, Mill Creek and helped to organize work days at MOS Irish Grove Sanctuary. She also serves on the MOS Sanctuary Committee. I truly appreciate the leadership, vision, energy and enthusiasm that she dedicated to TCBC. Thank you Bettye! Linda Yungbluth, Vice President,

TCBC.

In early 2019, when the Talbot County Bird Club was searching for a new President after Dave Palmer moved to Arizona, I recall a conversation with Bettye about throwing her hat into the ring. She expressed reluctance, pointing to others who had many more years with the club and more experience as birders. Fortunately, she realized that the club had lots of exceptional birders, but our club President should be someone who cares about the club, its mission, and its members. As President, she exemplified this, making sure to personally greet guests and new members. She added some fun events into our meetings to engage with members, such as "Wait, Wait, What's that Bird?" and "Mystery Bird". She did a great job organizing our pot-luck events and post-walk breakfasts. And she gained experience and continued to hone her birding skills where she is quick to find, identify, and most importantly share her sightings to help get all members on the bird during our walks. Ron Ketter, Secretary TCBC

It is my understanding that Bettye Maki was not a birder when she and her husband, Fred, moved to Talbot County. But she took my continuing education (now Chesapeake Forum) birding course for beginners in fall 2017 and again in spring 2019. That experience must have awakened something that was already a fledgling inside her, something beyond her demonstrated love of all animals (rumor has it that she will not swat a fly). By the end of 2019 she had become President of the Talbot County Bird Club at a time when the organization was looking for dedicated leadership. As Club Secretary during most of her tenure, I can attest that she gave us wings. She was instrumental in getting past information organized into a more coherent recent history of Club meetings and activities and having them posted on-line. It has been a pleasure working up meeting agendas with her, always enjoying her asides and, most recently, her "Wait-wait" contributions of little known bird lore. But what I have enjoyed most is seeing her on field trip after field trip and watching her become a confident birdwatcher. Talbot County birders could not wish for a finer leader, colleague, and field companion. She is one of a kind.

Wayne H. Bell, PhD

Senior Associate

Center for Environment and Society

Washington College

When Bettye became president of the Talbot Chapter I was the newly appointed field trip coordinator. Bettye made taking on the new task so much easier than I had imagined it would be. When a new idea or project came along Bettye immediately began to act upon it. It has been a great pleasure to work with her.

Not only has she proven to be a dedicated leader, she has become an excellent birder. In August of 2020, Bettye joined me on a pelagic trip out of Hatteras, North Carolina. Several weeks before we left she asked if I had any reference material that she could use to prepare for the new experience. When we got to Hatteras she had notes written on many of the species that we might encounter. Kate Sutherland, of Seabirding Inc., said that Bettye was the most prepared new seabirder that she had ever met.

Bettye has approached all birding experiences in this same dedicated manner. She has visited a swamp with me at four in the morning, on our way somewhere else, just to listen to Barred Owls. She has been at Lowe's Wharf in the pre-dawn hours to await the heron flight from Poplar Island. She has even braved the leech infested areas of Borneo in search of wildlife. It has been amazing to observe her through all of this.

Jeff Effinger, TCBC Field Trip Coordinator.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Birding in the Tucson area March 2024

Pat and Juanita Tate took a trip to Tucson, AZ to visit their daughter and Pat's brother and managed to get to a few birding hot spots. We visited Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Agua Caliente Park, Whitewater Draw, the Paton Center for Hummingbirds and Sabino Canyon and kept track of birds seen in Scottsdale, Tucson, the Desert Museum and the Zoo in Reid Park.

At Whitewater Draw we saw a flock of Sandhill Cranes return along with a flock of 200 Snow Geese. There and at Sweetwater we had Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Blue-winged Teal. We also had a great look at a Sora and lots of Ring-necked Duck, Ruddies and Mallards.

We had Anna's Hummingbirds almost everywhere and Costa's, Broad-billed and Violet-crowned Hummingbirds at the Paton center. The Black-crowned Night Heron was hanging around the zoo while we saw a 6 week old giraffe and a one week old elephant.

The Raptor display at the Desert Museum was excellent as always. Rosy-faced Lovebird were seen in Scottsdale.

All together we had 87 new species for the month and enjoyed our stay.

Pat Tate

CAROLINE COUNTY

Caroline County Bird Club member Debby Bennett spoke to Keith Hale's Advanced Manufacturing Professional (AMP) Program students at the Caroline Career & Technology Center on February 6, 2024 to help them prepare to research and develop a proposed design of a

nesting box for a particular local nesting bird. The students also visited Adkins Arboretum, where birder Jim Wilson took them on a bird walk, providing them information about the nesting boxes located in the Arboretum. The students were given one week to come up with a nesting box design. The students presented their nesting box designs to a full audience on February 13. A proposed design for a crested flycatcher nesting box was the winner. They also chose a proposed bat nesting box and a wood duck nesting box due to public interest in both. The students will build a number of the three boxes and sell them. Some of the students will speak at the April 20 Caroline County Bird Club meeting and bring some of their boxes for people to view and purchase.

The Caroline County Bird Club also scheduled an extra clean-up of the edge of Pelot Sanctuary on Drapers Mill Road on Saturday, Feb 24; after member Nick Carter discovered a number of tires, dresser, chair, along with miscellaneous garbage had been dumped there. The Club will still hold its scheduled April 27 Pelot clean-up, followed by a bird walk in the sanctuary.



Caroline County Bird Club members who cleaned up the road edge along Pelot Sanctuary in February with their second load of garbage. A truck load of tires and garbage had already been hauled to the landfill. Left to right: Tony Holt, Nick Carter, Valerie Taylor, Dara Winfield, Robin Lahnemann, Tony Giaimo, Christian Lahnemann, and Judy Willey.

Photo by Danny Poet

CECIL COUNTY

Besides celebrating her birthday at the wondrous ancient Mayan site of Tikal, on the very last morning 6:00 AM bird walk while on the MOS sponsored trip to Belize and Guatemala, Cathy Carter recorded her 700th life bird. Before catching the plane home from Belize she saw a Couch's Kingbird. Sounds like a great way to celebrate.

It was a treat to miss both snow storms in February, basking in the sun and long summer days while spending three weeks in New Zealand. Kim and Ken Drier hooked up with Overseas Adventure Travel for a nature and cultural tour of the country. Beginning the trip in Auckland on the north island Ken quickly found Albert Park named for the Albert of Victoria and Albert fame around the corner from their hotel which was only a 10 minute walk to the harbor area as well. In the middle of the biggest city in the country the blue Sacred Kingfishers were everywhere. The giant New Zealand Pigeons and colorful Eastern Rosellas put in appearances. Cute little New Zealand Fantails flitting about like our Kinglets were abundant and found almost everywhere in the country. By the time they left the Auckland area Ken had about 30 birds species listed, including Australasian Gannets and Swamphens, Magpies, Song Thrush, and Tuis. Probably more than half the bird species in New Zealand are invasive or birds that were brought by the settlers over time. Finding endemic birds was much more difficult than seeing, say, House Sparrows or even Canada Geese.

Heading a bit south to Rotorua, one finds active hot springs and geysers, along with lush vegetation. Tiny Silvereyes, Welcome Swallows, Common Mynas, and Eurasian Blackbirds could be seen from the balcony of the hotel in Rotorua. While at the Lake Tarawera Scenic Reserve, Paradise Shelducks, Australasian Shoveler, Eurasian Coot, New Zealand Scaup, New Zealand Grebe, Pied and Little Pied Cormorants, and North Island Robins were observed. A stop was made at one of the national Kiwi hatcheries. Here Kim and Ken were able to see Kiwi chicks that had been hatched earlier the same day. Unfortunately, they were not on this trip able to find the national bird in the wild.

Kim and Ken booked an excursion to the Northern Royal Albatross Center outside of Dunedin while traveling now on the South Island. South Island Oystercatchers, Black Swans, Double-banded Plovers, both Stewart Island and Spotted Shags along with the Albatross both on nests and soaring above the cliffs were seen. Little Penguins were found along the beach below the cliffs.

Finally, while back on the North Island in the Bay of Islands area on a boat ride through the islands to a nature reserve, Gray Gerygone, Red-breasted Dotterel endemic to New Zealand, Buller's Shearwaters, Pacific Reef Heron, Buff-banded Rails, Whiteheads and a pair of North Island Saddleback were added to the New Zealand bird list. Back at the hotel at about 5 in the morning, Ken was listening to a Morepork or small endemic owl calling near the parking lot.

Besides being a country where one is never more than two hours from the coast, New Zealand has a mountain range running through the South Island with snow covered peaks 12,000 feet in height. Kim and Ken were also able to spend

some time with an indigenous Māori family who performed some traditional songs and dances for them as well. It was a very scenic country with some wonderfully friendly Kiwis, as the native New Zealanders call themselves. It's just not around the corner, yet, well worth the effort.

Ken Drier

I (Cathy Carter) returned to Florida the first two weeks of February this year, spending time on both the east and west coasts. On the east coast, I visited two beautiful wetland areas within minutes of each other: Green Cay Wetlands and Nature Center in Boynton Beach and Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Delray Beach. Both have extensive boardwalks from which to view a large variety of wetland bird species, as well as alligators and very colorful iguanas. Wakodahatchee is a Wood Stork nesting spot, and I was there at a perfect time to observe them. I saw my first Painted Bunting at Green Cay, which was a real treat for me.

A new stop for me on the west coast was the Celery Fields Regional Stormwater Facility in Sarasota. It is affiliated with Sarasota Audubon, and over 240 species of birds have been observed there. Among the birds I saw were Sora, Nanday Parakeets, Loggerhead Shrike, American Bittern, and several more Painted Buntings. Staying at a relative's house on Lake Seminole, I had only to walk out the back door to observe amazing sunrises every morning as well as a large variety of birds, including Roseate Spoonbills, Limpkins, Wood Storks, and Ibises.

The warmth and the variety of birds make Florida an ideal place to beat the winter doldrums.

In March, I had an amazing M.O.S. Trip to Belize and Guatemala. Hope one of my fellow travelers reports on that trip.

Cathy Carter

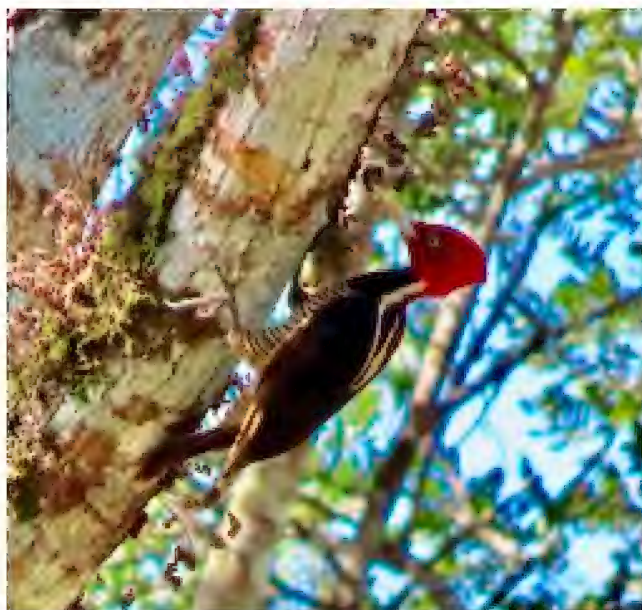
HOWARD COUNTY

Russ Ruffing (Howard Chapter) recently was in Colombia in early February to visit family but, as always, he was able to squeeze some birding in while there. He was able to sneak away for one day to bird the unique Santa Marta Mountains along the Caribbean Coast. This area is one of the most endemic-rich continental locations in the world (if not THE most). Though conditions were terrible, with uncharacteristic dense fog and heavy intermittent rain throughout the day, he was able to see three-fourths of the range's endemic bird species. In the process, he was stung on the lip at 4:00 am by a large tropical wasp species while trying to locate Mottled Owl and Santa Marta Screech-Owl (successfully!), which made things rather painful and worrisome for an hour or so. He also visited the Nevado Del Ruiz volcano in Tolima/Caldas provinces as well as the Otun Quimbaya Reserve in Riseralda province

and Valle Del Cocora in Quindio province. Trip totals were 245 species, pushing Russ' Colombia life list over 400.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Roy Howard writes: "My wife and I took our fourth trip to Costa Rica, this time with Road Scholar to learn from environmentalists and entrepreneurs engaged in restoring the rain forest and cloud forests of the country. We also engaged in conversations with people trying to balance eco-tourism with development challenges for local people and their communities. These were not always easy conversations. Although it was not a dedicated birding trip, I did see quite a few species and several life birds, including the Great Green Macaw, the critically-endangered second largest parrot in the world. I took a trip over to Carara National Park in Tarcoles, where the highlight was the Pale-billed Woodpecker. (See photo). The best part is that someone thought I'd seen an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Ha, ha!"



Pale-billed Woodpecker at Carara National Park in Tarcoles, Costa Rica. Photo by Roy Howard

Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman reported: "In early February, we traveled to Kolkata, India, to attend a wedding. After the two-day wedding (which featured four separate events, each requiring a different outfit), we spent three days at Tadoba National Park–Andhari Tiger Reserve in eastern Maharashtra State. We were joined by some friends who live in Mumbai and a professional naturalist. On each day of our stay, we went on two 4-hour drives in an open-air vehicle (no roof or windows). The focus of the drives was to find tigers, but the reserve also has a wide variety of birds and many mammals. We were really excited to see a tiny Indian Scops Owl. When we turned around and looked at the surrounding trees, we got a good look at a Brown Fish Owl. Some of the most common (and very beautiful) birds seen included

Plum-headed Parakeets, Rufous Treepies, Red-wattled Lapwings, Indian Peafowl, and Yellow-footed Green Pigeons. And even though we were particularly eager to see birds, we were not exactly disappointed to get excellent looks at a few tigers as well as some leopards, Gaur (large wild cattle), Sloth Bears, and langurs."

Daphne Gemmill sent a brief email to say "In February I had the distinction of being the first woman and oldest person to see the very rare Golden-winged Laughingthrush in a remote location in Vietnam. A steep strenuous hike was involved."She concluded this was all she had time to write because she was in the midst of conducting bird surveys on the island of Vieques, off Puerto Rico. "I am the bird lady of Vieques. I have been doing a bird survey here since 1983."

Another brief note came from Bruce Beehler "I have a new book being published in April: *Birds of North America: A Photographic Atlas* (Johns Hopkins University Press). American Bird Conservancy is the book's sponsor. We are holding a C&O Canal bird-walk and book launch/book-signing on **19 May**."

TRI-COUNTY

Tri-County member Elizabeth (Betty) Pitney passes away

Long-time Tri-County Bird Club member, Elizabeth (Betty) Pitney passed away on Sunday, March 3. Betty was a mainstay of the club for many years. She served as the club's secretary and MOS director from 2012-2021. Betty led many field trips, where her expertise on plants (especially ferns) introduced members to other aspects of our local environment. Betty's participation over decades in various counts and surveys - the Christmas and Spring Migration Counts, Breeding Bird Survey and Atlas projects, and Cornell FeederWatch - increased our knowledge and understanding of local bird populations. In the years before eBird, Betty submitted unusual bird sightings from the Lower Eastern Shore to *Maryland Birdlife*. Betty's love of animals extended beyond birds; at various times her home menagerie included cats, dogs, rabbits, Guinea pigs, and chickens that had fallen off the truck on the way to the processing plant. Betty's creative side included sewing, drawing, painting and carving; she was a member of the Ward Museum's Carving Club. She also volunteered for the Ward Museum and for Delmarva Public Media. Although Betty was not one to seek the limelight, her many efforts on behalf of the Tri-County Club have contributed to its continued success over the years.

Ellen Lawler

In October 2023, Marcia Balestri embarked on an unforgettable three-week birding tour across Madagascar's diverse habitats. From the arid spiny forests of Toliara in the south to dry deciduous forests near Mahajanga in the northwest to the lush rainforests of Perinet, Mantadia, and Ranomafana in the east, the 3-week Field Guides tour

provided extensive coverage of Madagascar's remarkable biodiversity and a chance to see some of the 110 endemic bird species.

Marcia encountered members of all five endemic bird families of Madagascar, including the mesites, the monotypic Cuckoo-Roller, the ground-rollers, the asities, and the recently separated Malagasy warblers (*Bernieridae*). Additionally, she logged seven coua species, which comprise a distinctive endemic subfamily. In all, she finished her tour with 148 bird species on her Madagascar list, about 2/3 of them lifers.

Beyond avian wonders, Marcia was enchanted by Madagascar's charismatic lemurs. From the playful Ring-tailed Lemurs foraging in a village-run park to the mystical dawn chorus of Indris in the misty forests of Perinet, each lemur encounter added depth to her appreciation of Madagascar's unique biodiversity. She also had the opportunity to observe the legendary Aye-aye, using its unique needle-like fingers to extract coconut flesh—a truly extraordinary sight.

The group was fortunate to witness a mating pair of elusive Fossa, the largest mammalian carnivore on the island. With the help of eagle-eyed guides, Marcia also watched numerous chameleons, geckos, lizards, and iguanas, as well as strange looking insects feeding, fighting, fleeing, mating, and in general going about their daily lives with their unique abilities to adapt to their distinctive environments. She especially enjoyed the various chameleons, those fascinating small to mid-size reptiles that are famous for their bulging eyes that move independently of one another, and their ability to dramatically change colors to convey emotions, defend territories, and communicate with mates.

Marcia's expedition to Madagascar was a journey of discovery, immersed in the island's extraordinary natural heritage. From the peculiar flora of the Spiny Forest to the endemic birds, enchanting lemurs, and colorful chameleons, every moment served as a testament to Madagascar's status as a biodiversity hotspot. As Marcia reflects on her experiences, she carries with her not only memories of awe-inspiring wildlife but also a heightened awareness of the urgent need to protect Madagascar's ecological treasures for generations to come.

Marcia Balestri

The Persistent Cactus Wren

New Tri-County member, Jamie Hardin just moved back to Maryland after having lived on the West Coast for the past decade. While returning, he and his mother took the opportunity to go on a journey through the Southwestern US in the fall of 2023. Jamie writes,

While we saw some incredible birds that I'd never seen before, there's one story that is particularly funny to me.

One of the stops my mother and I made on our cross country drive was in Ajo, Arizona at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Nestled against the Mexican border, the hot, arid environment is an extension of the Chihuahan Desert and supports a variety of cacti and animals. The Park Rangers warned us to pop the hood of the car to prevent packrats from making a nest, but we were never warned about the persistent Cactus Wren.

Accustomed to burrowing their nests in large cacti, our wooden teardrop camper caught the attention of one particularly curious Cactus Wren. From the moment we set up camp, we could see the wren hopping through the area, unphased by our presence.

The next morning, I noticed a stripped feather on the wheel hub of the trailer. Curious, I thought nothing of it until later in the day when I saw a Cactus Wren hopping through camp and going to that exact spot on the wheel hub and starting to peck at a hole in the trailer. It became obvious why there was an errant feather there: the wren was attempting to make a nest in our trailer!

The next day as we were packing up camp, I had the trunk of my hatchback open. I turned around to load the front passenger's side of the car when I noticed something moving inside the vehicle. A Cactus Wren had flown in through the open trunk and was now stuck in the driver's seat. The wren turned around, looked at me, defecated, and then continued to try attempting to fly out the driver's side window, hurling itself relentlessly against the glass.

Working quickly to prevent the wren from injuring itself, I opened the passenger's side door and started walking around to the driver's side. The wren saw the opening and escaped, flying fast away from the vehicle, never to be seen again.

Jamie Hardin



Cactus Wren. Photo by Jamie Hardin

A Gallery of Indian Birds by Debby Berlyne



Brown Fish Owl



Crested Hawk-eagle



Indian Roller



Rufous Treepie

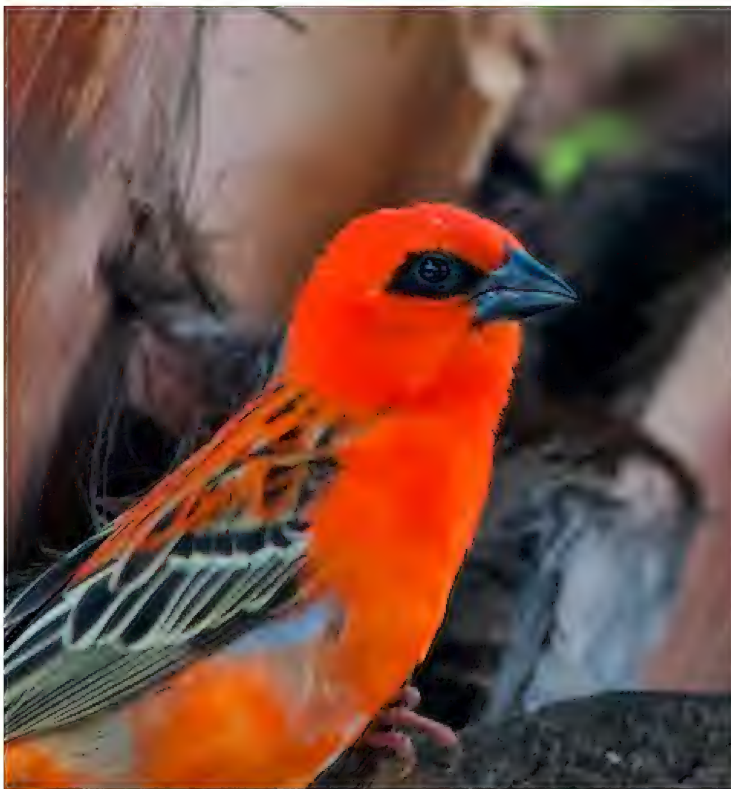
A gallery of Madagascar Birds by Marcia Balestri



Giant Coua



Hook-billed Vanga



Red Fody



Rufous Vanga

More Photos from India by Debby Berlyne



Plum-headed Parakeet

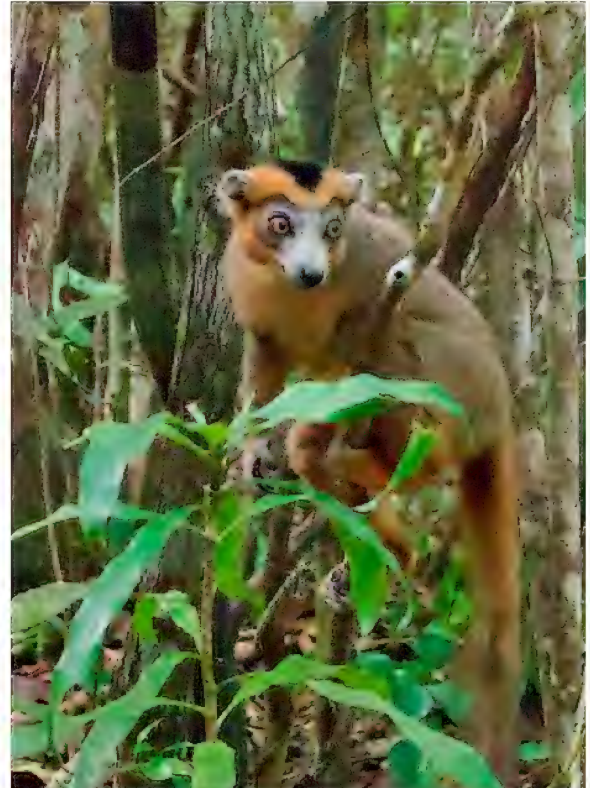


Yellow-footed Green Pigeon

More Photos from Madagascar from Marcia Balestri



Fossa



Crowned Lemur

Janet Millenson (1951- 2024)



MOS and MBC members have been shocked and saddened by the news of Janet Millenson's death on April 19, 2024.

Janet was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in Bethesda. After studies at Penn and MIT she worked primarily in information technology, marketing and consulting, most recently specializing in data mining and predictive analytics. Since 2020 she has led an election-related advocacy team for the League of Women Voters of Maryland. She was deeply concerned by election rights.

Janet loved birds and the outdoors since childhood. She became active in MOS in 1990 when she and her husband, Herb, returned to MD after 15 years in PA, MA, and CA. She became Compiler of the Sugarloaf Mountain Christmas Bird Count in 2003 and continued, with precision and a great sense of ethics, for 20 years. She liked to joke about getting us nice weather for the count.

She was editor of the MBC's *Chat* for six years in the 1990s, and later edited the *Yellowthroat*. She was President of MOS from 2004 to 2006, chaired the Communications Committee, and was a member of the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas Committee. In addition to spending 15 years doing layout for *Maryland Birdlife*, Janet headed the project to digitize the archive of Birdlife issues dating from 1945 to 1999. She has collected antiquarian bird books from the 1970's on and has given a presentation on early bird books and art to several MOS chapters. Two years ago she was elected as a State Director of MBC and soon thereafter accepted an appointment to be an advisor to the MOS Executive Council. In 2022 she was recognized for her enormous contributions by being selected as guest of Honor at MBC's annual Social. Janet was intelligent and hard-working; she had a beautiful soul. We'll miss her a lot.

Our sincere condolences to her husband Herb, son David, and daughter-in-law Sai.

Herb may be reached at 10500 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Donations in memory of Janet Millenson may be made to: League of Women's Voters of Maryland, 121 Cathedral street, Suite 2B, Annapolis, MD 21401 lwvmd.org

--Evelyn Ralston, MOS President

POSTMASTER: TIME -DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland, 21209

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hagerstown, MD
Permit No. 184



Indian Scops Owl
Photo by Debby Berlyne



Madagascar Scops Owl
Photo by Marcia Balestri

MOS Calendar

Through 08/31/2024

Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

5/1	7 AM – 1 PM	Walk at Susquehanna State Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
5/1	8 – 11 AM	West Friendship Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader: Lisa Colangelo, lcolangelo@verizon.net Description: The park now has very nice meadows which were used by the meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows. Meet in the front parking lot.
5/1	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Please contact walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance.
5/2	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
5/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Taylor's Landing	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leaders: Cheryl and Michael Saylor. Description: Meet in parking lot. Call 301-302-6517 if you plan to attend.
5/3	7 – 10 AM	Birding By Ear At Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Leo Dilling, leodilling@hotmail.com. Description: Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. Limit 6.
5/3	8 – 11 AM	Mullinix Mill Road	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Mary Prowell, boprow@aol.com. Description: Expect the usual woodland birds with any number of migrants passing through. Meet at the parking lot on Mullinix Mill Road.
5/3	8 AM – 5 PM	Pop-in bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Join Master Bander, Dr. Mark Johnson (443-528-0045) as he and his team of volunteers capture birds in mist nets to collect data. Come when you wish, leave when you want. The team hangs out at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion.
5/4	7 – 10 AM	Birding by Boat: Jug Bay	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Alex Pellegrini, agpell.work@gmail.com. Description: Join us aboard our Pontoon boat to explore areas you can't reach on foot. Min. 10 participants; max. 15. Cost \$12/person to cover boat usage.
5/4	7 AM – 12 PM	Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Mark Johnson, Suzanne Procell and Susan Hood. Description: Come out to find migrants (especially warblers) at this hot spot. Meet at the mill. Contact Mark with questions (MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com; 443-528-0045).
5/4	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
5/4	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. Park in the first parking lot on the right.
5/4	8 AM – 12 PM	Bear Branch Nature Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Jeff Marx jmarx@mcdaniel.edu Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk in the woods and along the stream looking for vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and flycatchers.
5/4	8 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill Bobolink Field	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Fair Hill NRMA has preserved habitat for ground-nesting birds. Meeting place is at Parking Lot #3 (2895 Appleton Road) aka North Appleton Parking Lot.

5/4	9 – 11 am	Urban Birding in Green Oasis	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brian Rollfinke, brollfinke.wbutimonium@gmail.com or 410-561-1215. Description: Patterson Park is a migrant magnet, and there's no better time to visit than early May. After scouring the park, we'll swing by nearby Thames Park to check on the Black-crowned Night Herons. RSVP required.
5/4	9 AM – 12 PM	Chesapeake Environmental Center	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Field trip either May 4 or 5.
5/4	All day	Susquehanna SP	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders Bettye Maki (248-225-0724 or bjmak04@gmail.com) and Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Migrants, Cerulean Warbler. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am or meet at the Rock Run Mill parking area.
5/5	8:00 AM	Explore Days Cove by Canoe!	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com. Description: There is nothing like the experience of birding by boat. Canoes and lifejackets will be provided. Be at the entrance gate between 7:30-8:00am. \$10 donation requested. Limit 18.
5/5	7 AM – 12 PM	Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net. Description: Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Meet at the League's Chapterhouse. Limit 10.
5/5	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Heislerville WMA	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders John Canoles, Diane Jones and Elaine & Steve Scribner Contact Elaine Scribner-Wagner (517.622.1211 or authorelainescribner@gmail.com) for questions. Description: Visit a variety of habitats in search of shorebirds, waders, skimmers, warblers, and horseshoe crabs. Meet at the Havre de Grace Park-N-Ride at Rt. I-95 and Rt. 155.
5/5	8- 10 AM	YMBC Walk: Rachel Carson Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Mentors: Lauren Carey and Stephen Davies Description: The walk will focus on woodland species. Meet in the parking lot just off of Zion Rd. Reservations are required.
5/5	TBD	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Gary Ladner, 973-610-3749 or garyladdner57@gmail.com. Description: Half-day trip for migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/7	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind).
5/7 – 10	All day	Magee Marsh	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Bettye Maki (248-225-0724 or bjmak04@gmail.com) Description: Multi-day trip for spring migration. Block of rooms reserved. Deadline to register is April 15.
5/8	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com
5/8	TBD	Manahan Road	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/9	8 – 11 AM	Orioles at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com or 443-834-8413. Description: Cromwell in early May is an excellent place to see/hear Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. 10+ Baltimore Orioles very possible. Meet at the Willow Grove parking lot.
5/10	8 – 11:30 AM	Pop-in Bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Join Master Bander, Dr. Mark Johnson (443-528-0045) as he and his team of volunteers capture birds in mist nets to collect data. Come when you wish, leave when you want. The team hangs out at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion.
5/10	9 – 11 AM	Mill Run Camp Ground, Garrett Co.	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club, Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com for questions or to register. Description: Meet at the parking area near the end of Mill Run Road (off Friendsville Addison Road) north of Friendsville.

5/11	7 – 11 AM	World Migratory Bird Day Birding at Gunpowder Falls SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Mark Johnson and Susan Hood. Contact Mark with questions (MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com; 443-528-0045). Description: Bird at the Sweet Air area for migrants. Meet at the park entrance on Dalton-Bevard Rd.
5/11	9 – 11 AM	Enoch Pratt Central Branch	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com. Description: Beginner's Urban Birding Walk to nearby Mt. Vernon Place and the Washington Monument. Registration required
5/11	All day	World Series of Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669). Description: Student Competition
5/12	7 – 11 AM	Rickman/Woodstock Equestrian Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Scott Young at scott4aves@icloud.com. Dave Roberts will co-lead. Description: Join us for some spring early morning birding in broad fields and separating woods. Limit 10.
5/12	8 – 11 AM	Turkey Hill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Matthew Black and Anand Pandian, Description; This area in Curtis Bay is relatively unexplored: it has a diverse range of habitat and relatively well-maintained trails We have permission to park at Bob's Automotive.
5/12	8 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful.
5/12	9 – 10 AM	Mother's Day Birding at Cromwell Valley	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brian Rollfinke brollfinke.wbutimonium@gmail.com or 410-561-1215. Description: Celebrate Mom by taking her on a guided bird walk! Registration priority will be given to participants bringing Mom! RSVP required.
5/14	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind)
5/14	8 AM – 2 PM	Howard County Conservancy Big Sit	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Join fellow birders at the Chandler S. Robbins Skywatch. This is an unofficial Big Sit. We will look for flyovers and look and listen to surrounding birds. No need to sign up, just show up.
5/14	TBD	Yankauer Nature Preserve	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@aol.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/15	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Oxbow Lake	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jay Sheppard, 301-318-6318 or jaymsheppard95@gmail.com OR Marcy Stutzman, marciastutzman@netscape.net
5/16	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
5/18	7 AM – 7 PM	Big Sit: Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Bud Poole, parkpatterson1@gmail.com.. Description: Beginning birders welcome! The goal of a "Big Sit" is to see or hear as many birds as possible from within a 17-foot diameter circle RSVP to the trip leader if you have an approximate time that you plan to participate, otherwise, drop-in participation is welcome.
5/18	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at 7:30 am.
5/18	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Birding at Nanticoke WMA	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader, Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net Description: The Nanticoke WMA (also known as Nutter's Neck) is known for healthy populations of Red-headed Woodpeckers and Northern Bobwhite.
5/18	8 – 11:30 AM	Pop-in Bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Join Master Bander, Dr. Mark Johnson (443-528-0045) as he and his team of volunteers capture birds in mist nets to collect data. Come when you wish, leave when you want. The team hangs out at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion.
5/18	8 AM – 12 PM	Piney Run Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Scott Hodgdon scotthodgdon@msn.com Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk at one of the hotspots for birding. We should see some migratory water fowl, woodpeckers and lots of woodland birds. Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts. RSVP to Scott.

5/18	8 AM – 12 PM	Susquehanna SP Mill Area	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: Susquehanna SP is well known for its rich diversity of bird life, with over 215 species reported. It is the place to be for spring warblers. Meet at the Mill area. Limited parking, car-pooling recommended.
5/18	8:30 – 11:30 AM	Perryville Paddle	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to search for swimmers, divers, and of course, fliers. Meet at the Stump Point launch at the far end of the Park.
5/18	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Please contact walk leader 24 hours in advance to confirm attendance.
5/18	TBD	Gambrill Watershed and Sand Flat	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-843-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for starting time and location.
5/18 – 19	All day	Carey Run Work Weekend	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee Contact Jeremy Castle: jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org for any questions or to sign-up. Description: This year's activities will include trail maintenance, structure maintenance, and house cleaning/upkeep, and, of course, BIRDING.
5/19	6 AM – 12 PM	Millington WMA	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Susan Henyon (suehenyon@rocketmail.com) Description: Migrants, Cerulean Warblers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am or meet at Millington HQ at 7 am.
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, 301-254-0188 or jcollatz@aol.com
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Elise and Paul Kreiss (410) 367-8194, ekreiss@verizon.com or paul1kreiss@verizon.com. Description: Please join us for a bird walk in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot at 4500 Franklinton Road.
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Soldiers Delight	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Sarah Luttrell, luttrellsa@gmail.com. Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. RSVP to leader.
5/19	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Lisa Colangelo, lcolangelo@verizon.net. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Use the parking lot to the left of the Gary Arthur Senior Center (2400 MD-97, Cooksville MD), not the Western Regional Park lots.
5/19	TBD	Libertytown Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Description: Migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/21	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Matthew Black, matthewblack66@yahoo.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind)
5/23	7 AM – 6 PM	Trip to Bombay Hook, Dupont Nature Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, 410-991-8300 or alanmyoung@gmail.com Leader Kevin Graff, 410-967-5896 (text only) or keyweststyle2001@gmail.com
5/25	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Patapsco Scrubland	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Felicia Lovelett, c5nest@gmail.com. Description: Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. We will also be able to view Felicia's Chimney Swift tower. Meet at 735 River Road.
5/25	8 – 11 AM	Family Friendly Trip: Mariner Point Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Nara, Tyme and Jean Palanuwech at Mothergoose8257@gmail.com or call 908-507-1875. Description: Bring the kids and do some leisurely birding at this favorite waterside park. Migrants are expected and walking is on well-designed walkways.

5/25	8 – 11:30 AM	Pop-in Bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Join Master Bander, Dr. Mark Johnson (443-528-0045) as he and his team of volunteers capture birds in mist nets to collect data. Come when you wish, leave when you want. The team hangs out at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion.
5/25	8 AM – 12 PM	Krimgold Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club Contact: Matthew Hodgdon mhodgdon@msn.com Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk while bird watching in the park. We hope to see sparrows, swallows and Horned Larks. Meet at the last parking lot by the pavilion. RSVP to Matthew.
5/25	9 AM – 12 PM	C&O Canal, Oldtown west toward Spring Gap	Allegany/Garrett Bird Club, Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com for questions or to register. Description: Meet at the parking area at the C&O Canal at Oldtown MD.
5/25	All day	Family Birding: Delaware Bay	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com. Description: Horseshoe Crabs and Shore Birds: we will meet at the Dupont Nature Center in DE at 10 am and drive along Shore Rd and stop at several locations to walk up to the beach and observe the birds and horseshoe crabs. RSVP required.
5/26	8 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Kim Tomko, ktomkat@gmail.com. Description: This urban park is an oasis for many migrating and resident bird species. RSVP required.
5/26	All day	Hot Spots for Red Knots	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net. Description: The tentative itinerary is Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Dupont Nature Center, Slaughter Beach, and the Broadkill impoundment at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Limit 12 people, 4 cars. Carpooling is mandatory. Reservations required.
5/26	All day	Delaware Coast	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Ettinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Shorebirds, Marsh Sparrows, many others. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6 am.
5/27	7 – 11 AM	Hidden Valley (and surrounding areas)	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader, Dennis Kirkwood, (Newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905) Description: Dennis will guide us to Hidden Valley and on to the Bradenbaugh Flats, stopping along the way at other sites with potential. Carpooling encouraged. Meet in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek.
5/28	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Laura Lechtzin, lechtzin@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind)
6/1	5:55 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill Bird Walk	Host; Harford Bird Club Leaders Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) and Joe Stevens (josephstevens@comcast.net; 410-937-9827). Description: We will explore Fair Hill's diverse habitats for a variety of breeding species including its crown jewel, the Bobolink. Carpoolers meet at 5:55AM at Darlington Park (4549 Conowingo Rd.) or else at 6:30AM at Parking Lot #3 (2941 Appleton Rd.)
6/1	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
6/1	8 – 10 AM	Woodland Warblers at Prettyboy Reservoir	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Brian Rollfinke, brollfinke.wbutimonium@gmail.com or 410-561-1215. Description: The CCC Trail at gate 4 has mature oak-hickory forests and scrubrier areas offer reliable habitat. Several species of warbler which breed only sporadically in the region often can be found here. RSVP required.
6/1	8 – 11 AM	Black Birders Week at Mount Pleasant	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leaders Kojo Baidoo, Teresa Spencer, and Mary Lou Clark (doctorfx_99@yahoo.com) with guest photographer Desmond Johnson Description: Part of Black Birders Week events. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Meet at parking lot near the barn.
6/1	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding Mountain Rd Green Ridge	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com. Description: Hike targets a BBA3 block to increase data on breeding bird activity. Meet at the Bilmeyer WMA office.

6/1	8 AM – 12 PM	Fair Hill Covered Bridge Area	Host: Cecil Bird Club Leader Ken Drier (kdrier@zoominternet.net) Description: The Covered Bridge area of Fair Hill NRA is the place to be for spring warblers. In addition to the usual suspects, expect to find orioles, woodpeckers, flycatchers and an eagle or two. Meet at the covered bridge parking lot.
6/1	TBD	Breeding Bird Atlasing	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: We'll select blocks in Talbot County that are lagging in the number of species coded and arrange a special trip.
6/2	7 – 9 AM	YMBC WALK: Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Mentor: Dave Powell Description: We will scout out the impoundments as well as woodland area. Reservations required.
6/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Susquehanna SP	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com. Description: Trip to the river in Harford County for breeding birds. Meet at the old Rock Run Gristmill, and we'll walk along the river and parts of the Ridge Trail.
6/6	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
6/7 – 9	All day	Western MD Weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: Breeding warblers, and other exciting birds.
6/8	7:30AM – 10:30 AM	Patuxent River At Brown's Bridge	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Paul Orsinger at paulorsinger@gmail.com. Description: Look for Cliff Swallows building mud nests beneath this bridge and observe other possible breeding birds. Limit 10.
6/8	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding Lonaconing CE Block of BBA-3.	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com. Description: Hike targets a BBA3 block to increase data on breeding bird activity. Meet near the Dan's Rock Overlook parking area.
6/9	TBD	Breeding Bird Atlasing	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: We'll select blocks in Talbot County that are lagging in the number of species coded and arrange a special trip. This is a great opportunity for all – we need both experience
6/15	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at 7:30 am.
6/15	9 AM – 12 PM	Birding Artemas SE BBA - 3 Block.	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register or for questions. Description: Hike targets a BBA3 block to increase data on breeding bird activity. Meet at the Green Ridge Forest headquarters off I-68.
6/15	TBD	Antietam National Battlefield	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Jeff Smith 240-29101892 or jefsmith78@gmail.com Description: Blue Grosbeaks and wildflowers galore.
6/20	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
6/21	8 – 10:30 AM	Bird Walks at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Description: Meet near the Friends Delight Store. Parking is available at the state park or at the Youghiogheny River access parking lot on the left approximately 1/4th mile beyond the park.
6/22	TBD	Harford Wild Garden Tour	Save the date for this epic tour. Details forthcoming.
6/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Dan's Mountain State Park Loop Trail.	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. To register or if you have questions contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com Description: Park at the pool parking and meet at the Daniel Cresap monument.
6/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Tydings Park Paddle	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Join us at the boat launch ramp with your kayak, stand-up or canoe as we search for waterfowl, waders, peeps and songbirds.
7/4	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
7/6	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.

7/9	7:45 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at BBA3 Flintstone SW Block	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Description: Meet at the Flintstone Elementary School parking lot at 7:45 or the intersection of Town Creek Rd SE and Old Williams Rd SE at 8:00 am. Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com.
7/10	8 – 10:30 AM	Bird Walk at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Description: Meet near the Friends Delight Store. Parking is available at the state park or at the Youghiogheny River access parking lot on the left approximately 1/4th mile beyond the park.
7/13	9 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Paw Paw Tunnel Campground	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com to register or for questions. Description: Hike targets a BBA3 block to increase data on breeding bird activity. Meet at the Campground at Paw Paw Tunnel.
7/18	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
7/20	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at 7:30 am.
8/1	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
8/3	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
8/5	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walks at Sang Run	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Description: Meet near the Friends Delight Store. Parking is available at the state park or at the Youghiogheny River access parking lot on the left approximately 1/4th mile beyond the park.
8/10	7:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Bombay Hook NWR Trip	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Morning refuge bird hunt, Targets: shorebirds, wading birds
8/15	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
8/17	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at 7:30 am.
9/1	10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com Description: Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots.

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

5/1	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker: TBD	Carroll Nonprofit Center
5/2	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Kathy Shollenberger will speak on “If you Care About Birds, Create Habitat”	Hood College
5/3	6 – 8 PM	Meeting: Harford Bird Club	Pizza and presentation by Gene Scarpulla	Harford Glen
5/6	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: YMOS	MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project, World Series of Birding	Virtual
5/7	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	Around the World Filming Birds by Marty Brazeau	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
5/8	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Annual May Social	Woodend
5/9	7:30 – 9 PM	Meeting: Howard County Bird Club	Steve Sheffield will speak on Recent Advances in Owl Biology and Conservation	Robinson Nature Center
5/14	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Offshore wind power generation in MD by David Wilson.	Virtual

5/14	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Baltimore Bird Club	Board meeting	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
5/16	7 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Anne Arundel Bird Club	Gerald Winegrad will speak on his trip to Africa	Blue Heron Center, Quiet Waters Park
5/18	9 – 11 AM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Rich Downs will speak on Plans for Year 5 of our MD & DC Breeding Atlas work in Caroline County.	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
5/20	6 – 9 PM	Meeting: Tri-county Bird Club	“Brazil: the Pantanal to the Amazon Forest” by Mike Walsh.	Perdue Henson JA Center
5/25	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
5/28	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Washington County Bird Club	Member’s Night.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
6/1	10 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: MOS Board	MOS Board Meeting	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
6/1	11:30 AM – 3 PM	Picnic: Baltimore Bird Club	Summer Picnic	Eagle Mill Farm
6/6	6 – 9 PM	Picnic: Frederick Bird Club	Picnic	Fountain Rock Park
6/11	6 – 7:30 PM	Meeting: Harford Bird Club	Wingspan Game Night	Bel Air Library
6/11	7 – 9 pm	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Annual Members Night	Virtual
6/30	4 – 8 pm	Picnic: Washington County Bird Club	Meet at the pavilion	Fort Frederick SP
7/10	6 – 7:30 PM	Meeting: Harford Bird Club	Wingspan Game Night	Bel Air Library
8/15	6 – 7:30 PM	Meeting: Harford Bird Club	Wingspan Game Night	Bel Air Library
8/25	4 – 8 pm	Picnic: Washington County Bird Club	Picnic	Washington Monument SP

Seasonal Counts		
Dorchester Spring Count	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/4
Fred Archibald Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/4
Allegany County May Count	Contact Mark Eanes at mdeanes@atlanticbb.net	5/11
Anne Arundel County May Count	Contact Steve Sheffield, srsheffield@comcast.net	5/11
Baltimore County May Count	Contact Elizabeth Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com	5/11
Caroline County May Count	Go to Caroline County web site or Facebook page, or contact Debby Bennett.	5/11
Carroll County May Count	Contact Scott Hodgdon, 4430279-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com	5/11
Charles County May Count	Contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com	5/11
Dorchester May Count	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/11
Frederick County May Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/11
Garrett County May Count	Contact Duane Bailey at dbailey3@earthlink.net.	5/11
Howard County May Count	Contact Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com	5/11
Prince Georges County May Count	Contact Matthew Felperin, mattfelp@gmail.com	5/11
St. Mary’s County May Count	Contact J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.org	5/11
Washington County May Count	Contact Mark Abdy 301-5731301..	5/11
Wicomico County May Count	Compiler Ellen Lawler, emlawler534@comcast.net	5/11
Worcester County May Count	Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com	5/11
Audrey Carroll Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net.	5/12
Calvert County May Count	Contact Sherman Suter, shermansuter@gmail.com or 703 362 8953.	5/12
Somerset County Count	Compiler Pat Valdata, pvaldata1@gmail.com	5/12
Talbot County May Count	Contact Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com)	5/12